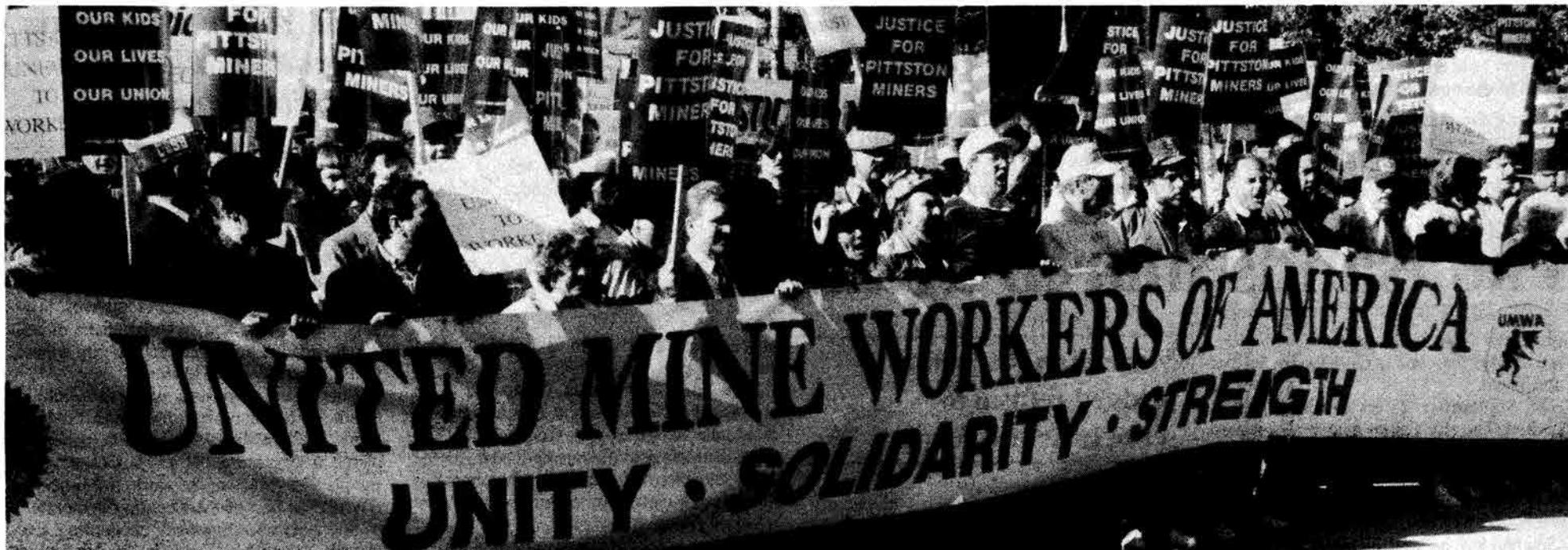


# Eastern strike, miners' fight signal rising labor militancy



Militant/Mark Satinoff

Members from more than 20 unions joined rally in Greenwich, Connecticut, for coal miners on strike against Pittston Coal Group.

## Eastern strike gets lift from stepped-up support

"What's ours is yours," a striking Pittston coal miner from Virginia told a rally of Eastern Airlines strikers at New York's La Guardia Airport September 7.

His statement underscored the growing solidarity between the miners and airline strikers and pointed toward something new that's developing in the struggle of working people in the United States.

For the first time in more than 40 years — since the strike wave that immediately fol-

### EDITORIAL

lowed World War II — two major national labor battles are unfolding at the same time: the ongoing strike by thousands of Eastern workers and the growing resistance of union miners throughout the coalfields, centered on support to the strike against the Pittston Coal Group.

These struggles, coming after a long period of setbacks and retreats for the labor movement, are at the center of a new rise in labor militancy.

The Eastern Airlines strike began last March, after years of company attacks on wages, working conditions, union rights, and human dignity forced 8,500 ramp workers, aircraft cleaners, stock clerks, mechanics, and other International Association of Machinists members at Eastern to walk off the job. Flight attendants and pilots joined the battle, and Eastern's operations rapidly ground to a halt.

A month later the strike broke out at Pittston. Miners at the company's Virginia and West Virginia mines walked out after 14 months of working without a contract. They were determined to resist Pittston's drive to slash pension and medical benefits and weaken — if not break — the United Mine Workers at the company's mines. After the defeat of a strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co. in 1984-85, miners throughout the UMWA resolved that the fight at Pittston would not end the same way. On April 30, some 10,000 Pittston miners and supporters from Appalachian coal communities rallied

in Wise County, Virginia, to make that clear.

When news of the miners' walkout hit the airport picket lines, many Eastern strikers knew reinforcements had arrived. It didn't take long for the airline strikers and miners to begin looking to each other for mutual support and solidarity.

In June Eastern strikers toured mine locals and coal communities in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. On June 11 hundreds of Eastern strikers joined with thousands of striking Pittston miners, family members, and other supporters in a Charleston, West

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## 1,500 unionists rally for Pittston coal strikers

BY THERESA DELGADILLO

GREENWICH, Conn. — Some 1,500 unionists representing 20 unions from the New York and New England area rallied here September 24 in support of striking Pittston coal miners.

Prominent among them were 80 miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America, who traveled 16 hours by bus from the coalfields of West Virginia, and 50 Eastern Airlines strikers from La Guardia Airport in New York. Communication workers on strike against the NYNEX phone company came up for the rally as well.

Striking electrical and hospital workers

joined workers from the garment, chemical, hotel, auto, newspaper, and construction industries to show support for the coal miners.

The UMWA has been on strike against the Pittston Coal Group in Virginia and West Virginia since April 5. The strike was prompted by Pittston's demand for numerous concessions and the company's refusal to make health-care and pension payments to retired and disabled miners. Pittston's corporate headquarters are here in Greenwich.

John Olson of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, saluting the striking unionists present, stated, "Union is a word the Colt Firearms workers

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## Thousands in South Africa protest apartheid

BY RONI McCANN

In a country where the average daily prison population can easily rise above the 100,000 mark, and more than 2,000 people have been arrested protesting apartheid in the last four weeks, John Vorster Square, the South African police headquarters in Johannesburg, is an all-too-familiar place for countless trade unionists and political activists.

On September 15, however, more supporters of the liberation movement were on the outside rather than the inside as a crowd of anti-apartheid protesters — 20,000 of them — took over the city's streets and marched to the police station. Upon arrival they presented the country's minister of law and order with a memorandum.

"The majority of our people are frustrated by the rule of an undemocratic and racist minority and by the lack of meaningful change toward a democratic, nonracial, and united South Africa," read the statement. It demanded an end to police brutality, lifting of the state of emergency, and release of all political prisoners.

### Marches held around the country

Flags of the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Communist Party were unfurled outside the police headquarters, and many of the youth donned T-

shirts of the United Democratic Front. These organizations and numerous others are illegal or severely restricted by the South African government. The apartheid laws are being challenged by hundreds of thousands of South Africans in demonstrations, strikes, and boycotts — part of the snowballing campaign of defiance launched in August.

Like the Cape Town march of tens of

thousands two days before, the Johannesburg march was permitted by the government and took place without police interference. Following those actions, activists staged protests in cities around the country. In Pietermaritzburg, a town in Natal, 7,000 marched on September 21. Another 15,000 held a rally at the City Hall in Durban the next day, and

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## Nov. march to defend abortion rights

BY SELVA NEBBIA

The November 12 "Mobilize for Women's Lives" action is a "strategy to organize pro-choice women and men in this country to work to maintain the constitutional right of women to have abortions," explained Molly Yard.

Yard is the president of the National Organization for Women. Her statement was recently issued to build the demonstration in Washington, D.C., cosponsored by NOW and more than 50 other organizations in support of a woman's right to choose.

"It is essential to keep pressure on at the national level," stated Yard, "as the Supreme Court will consider three more antiabortion cases this fall. We must clearly say to the

court, 'Do not overturn *Roe v. Wade*' and 'Stop dismantling *Roe*.' " The 1973 Supreme Court ruling legalized the right to abortion.

Referring to the April 9 demonstration that drew 500,000 to the nation's capital to demand a woman's right to choose as a "spectacular success," Yard stated, "I believe it did have an effect upon the court."

"*Roe v. Wade* was not overturned," continued the NOW president. "We must see to it that it is never overturned. We must be ever vigilant on the national level on behalf of the constitutional right that women now have to birth control and abortion."

"Our experience since the April 9 March and Rally for Women's Lives, and since the

Continued on Page 13

# Salvadoran rebels end 10-day cease-fire

## Government and FMLN agree to hold peace negotiations in October.

BY SELVA NEBBIA

The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador ended a 10-day cease-fire September 23. The unilateral truce had begun the day peace talks were initiated between the Alfredo Cristiani government and the rebel forces.

The discussions between government officials and leaders of the FMLN — a bloc of five organizations waging an armed struggle against the Salvadoran government — took place in Mexico City September 13–15.

As a result of this meeting, the FMLN and the Salvadoran government delegations agreed to meet in Costa Rica on October 16 and 17 to hold formal negotiations to reach an end to the nine-year civil war.

During the course of the 10-day FMLN truce, rebel leaders explained, the Cristiani government continued to carry military actions against the civilian population.

The civil war has led to the exile of a million Salvadorans and claimed the lives of 70,000, most of whom were killed by the U.S.-backed and financed armed forces or by death squads linked to the military.

"The Salvadoran armed forces," explained the FMLN September 21, "are taking advantage of the guerrillas' unilateral truce to carry out a military offensive."

On September 20 the army conducted aerial bombardments in the vicinity of Cerro Guazapa, 20 miles north of San Salvador.

The FMLN Human Rights Commission reports that between September 12 and 18, a total of 164 human rights violations were committed. During these seven days, 149 people were arrested, seven were killed, and two were disappeared.

On September 19 a demonstration organized by the Salvadoran labor federation FENASTRAS was broken up by police. Some 60 demonstrators were arrested after government forces, using tear gas, broke into a church where the protesters were taking refuge.

Following a peaceful demonstration, reported a spokesperson for the Salvadoran National Workers Unity (UNTS), 25 people were arrested on September 15 by govern-

ment troops in the neighborhood of Los Mexicanos, just north of the Salvadoran capital. The arrests took place after a festival organized by the UNTS in which participants carried signs demanding the abolition of the government's economic plan and a negotiated peace. According to union sources, the whereabouts of those arrested is unknown.

In a September 17 interview with the *New York Times*, Joaquín Villalobos, a top FMLN commander and a member of the delegation to the Mexico City talks, declared that the rebels are willing to end hostilities if the U.S. government stops its military aid to the Salvadoran government.

Villalobos explained to the *Times* that this did not imply that the FMLN would comply with the Salvadoran government's proposal to immediately lay down its arms.

"This war has causes," explained Villalobos, "and the problem is not one of handing over arms but of ending the reasons that have led to taking up arms."

The U.S. Senate voted August 11 to grant \$85 million in military aid to the Cristiani government. Over the last decade it has sent more than \$1 billion in military assistance to the Salvadoran government.

According to an FMLN release issued September 21, FMLN leader Salvador

Samoya declared that U.S. military aid is an action that "obstructs the possibilities for a peace process in the country."

Among the proposals submitted to the Cristiani government by the FMLN delegation were that a final cease-fire begin by November 15 and the total integration of the FMLN into Salvadoran political life as a legal political party by Jan. 31, 1990. The formation of one army, a restructuring of the Supreme Court, reforms of the Constitution, and a suspension of the moves taken recently by the Cristiani government limiting the land reform initiated by the previous regime of José Napoleón Duarte were also part of the proposal.

"Today," Villalobos told the *Times*, "the possibilities for peace in El Salvador are greater than ever in spite of the fact that we have a right-wing government."

## New York meeting pays tribute to fallen Namibian leader

BY RONI McCANN

UNITED NATIONS — A memorial service for Anton Lubowski was held here September 26 at the UN Church Center. A leader of the South West Africa People's Organisation, Lubowski was assassinated on September 12 outside his home in Namibia.

Some 75 senior UN representatives, lawyers, Namibians, and representatives of political organizations gathered to pay tribute to the fallen SWAPO leader.

Lubowski, who was white, studied in South Africa, becoming a lawyer. He publicly joined SWAPO in 1984. When the independence process got under way Lubowski gave up his law practice to work full-time for SWAPO as part of the election directorate.

Shekutaamba Nambala, recounting Lubowski's contributions to the liberation movement, said that he "helped build important bridges between workers in all fields and Blacks and whites."

A representative of the National Lawyers Guild read a message from the defendants on trial for treason in South Africa whom Lubowski had helped to defend.

Anton Lubowski was part of SWAPO's efforts "to embrace all Namibians: white, brown, and Black, and mobilize them to be part of the election process," said Zambian Ambassador Peter Zuze, who is also president of the UN Council for Namibia.

Videos of interviews with Lubowski were shown, and SWAPO representative Hinyangwa Asheke spoke along with several others.

Also present was a representative of the African National Congress of South Africa, the producer of the TV program *South Africa Now*, constitutional rights lawyer Leonard Boudin, Peter Weiss of the Center for Constitutional Rights, and representatives of several UN member states.

## Thousands march against apartheid

Continued from front page  
some 10,000 marched in Oudtshoorn, east of Cape Town.

On September 23 in Durban 10,000 marched. The city's chief magistrate granted permission for the action although none was sought. Eight city officials took part in the march. ANC flags were hoisted on flag poles outside of City Hall.

Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, called on the government to "allow us to organize politically, to speak as we want to speak, and to vote for a government that will represent the majority of our people."

### Government bans protest

However, on the same day as the Durban action, as tens of thousands of women started to pour into the country's capital, the government declared the march banned. A cathedral in Pretoria where women were gathering for the action was sealed off with rolls of barbed wire. Helicopters circled overhead, and roadblocks were set up preventing others from entering the city.

The government said the marchers had no permit and proposed they hold their demonstration next week. The coordinators of the action, Women Against Repression, replied they had the right to protest peacefully.

At the same time, a group of 400 members of the ultraright Afrikaner Resistance Movement held a protest in downtown Pretoria

### More than 780 whites pledged refusal to serve in armed forces.

near a statue of Paul Kruger, a 19th century Afrikaner. Most in the group wore khaki uniforms with neostastikas on them and carried whips and truncheons. One of the racists told a *New York Times* reporter that the meeting was to protest the "desecration" of the statue, which took place during a previous anti-apartheid march. "It's a sacred monument," he said to the reporter, "not something for the apes to climb atop of." The government said the group had applied and received a permit.

### Refusal to serve in Pretoria's military

A new addition to the defiance campaign came on September 21 when more than 780 whites pledged their refusal to serve in the South African armed forces. The announcements were made at news conferences held in six cities.

With the largest number of conscientious objectors protesting at one time, youth as well as reservists and commissioned and noncommissioned officers came forward. All male whites in South Africa are required to serve two years in the armed forces followed by annual reserve training. The reservists and

officers said they would ignore this year's call.

The End Conscription Campaign is an anti-apartheid organization that encourages resistance to the South African draft. The organization's activities are banned under the 1986 state of emergency. At the beginning of the defiance campaign the group announced it would resume its work.

Refusal to serve in the armed forces is punishable by six years in prison, and a number of protesters have been jailed. At a news conference in Johannesburg a spokesperson for the draft resisters announced there were 279 potential objectors in that city and Pretoria, including 61 Afrikaans-speakers.

### Trade unions launch boycott

On September 22, the day after the round of news conferences announcing the military service protest, a two-week boycott of white-owned businesses began. The call was made by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), joined by the National Council of Trade Unions, which has ties with the Black consciousness movement. The two federations held a joint summit the end of August to plan what turned out to be a successful national strike by some 3 million workers September 5–6.

COSATU leaders also announced an indefinite ban on overtime. They said the action would cut production by 20 percent or force white employers to hire thousands of Blacks.

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## The *Militant*

Closing news date: September 27, 1989

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Published weekly except one week in August and the last week of December by the *Militant* (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Fax 727-0150; Telex, 497-4278; Business Office, (212) 929-3486. Nicaragua Bureau, Apartado 2222, Managua. Telephone 24845.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The *Militant* Business Office, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Canada, Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$30, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$65. Britain, Ireland, Continental Europe, Africa: £22 for one year, £12 for six months, or £6 for three-month renewal. Send check or international money order made out to Pathfinder Press and send to Pathfinder, 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England. Australia, Asia, Pacific: send Australian \$60 to Pathfinder Press, P.O. Box 153, Glebe, Sydney, NSW 2037, Australia.

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# Cambodia braces for stepped-up fighting as Vietnam withdraws

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Vietnam completed its withdrawal of more than 50,000 troops from Cambodia on September 26. The troops had been there since 1979 when, together with Cambodian resistance fighters, they toppled the Pol Pot regime, responsible for the deaths of more than a million Cambodians.

The final troop withdrawals followed the collapse of talks at a 19-nation conference on Cambodia in Paris in August. The aim of the Cambodian and Vietnamese governments in the talks was to find a political solution to end the guerrilla operations and raids against Cambodia by a coalition of counterrevolutionary opposition forces.

Washington and Peking provide military and other aid to these groups, which maintain bases and control refugee camps inside Thailand near the Cambodian border. While able to conduct terrorist operations in many of the regions of Cambodia, none of the groups has been able to capture and hold any territory.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen issued a last-minute appeal on September 24 "calling on other countries to stop their supply of arms" to opposition forces and for the opposition to agree to a cease-fire.

A key reason for the collapse of the talks was the insistence by Norodom Sihanouk, the head of the opposition coalition, that a new Cambodian government be established in which the opposition would control three-fourths of the military and government positions prior to elections. This demand included giving an equal share in the arrangement to Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge forces.

## Role for Khmer Rouge rejected

The Cambodian government rejected this, as well as any role in a future government for the Khmer Rouge group, widely hated in Cambodia. It has maintained that any political solution insure that the Pol Potists never return to power.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen proposed setting general elections organized by a council composed of representatives from the opposition and the government. These elections would have been held under international supervision while a cease-fire was in effect. Opposition forces would have been able to organize politically within the country to contest in the elections.

Sihanouk, the former hereditary monarch of Cambodia, was to have become the government's figurehead, while the current Cambodian government continued to govern pending the election's outcome. The Khmer Rouge was excluded from this proposal.

The U.S. government blamed the failure of the talks on Cambodia and Vietnam for their refusal to compromise on Sihanouk's proposal.

## U.S. supports Khmer Rouge

Despite the U.S. government's public stance opposing the Khmer Rouge returning to power, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon said Washington "went along" with Sihanouk's "judgement." Washington has for

## Irish muralist arrested at New York airport

NEW YORK — Irish muralist Gerard Kelly was arrested by FBI agents at Kennedy Airport on September 27. Kelly, a resident of Belfast, Northern Ireland, was traveling to the United States where he has been invited to paint heroes of the Irish liberation struggle on the Pathfinder mural here.

Authorities said they were holding Kelly for allegedly making a "false statement on a visa application."

Spokespersons for the Pathfinder Mural Project are urging inquiries and protest messages be sent to Andrew J. Maloney, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District, 225 Cadman Plaza E., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201. Telephone (718) 330-7000.

years aided the Khmer Rouge war effort.

To facilitate agreement in talks with the opposition, Hun Sen announced earlier this year that his government had changed the country's name from the People's Republic of Kampuchea to the State of Cambodia. The flag was also changed. These steps met some demands by Sihanouk.

The collapse of talks signaled opposition preparations to step up the fighting.

Gen. Nguyen Van Thai, a military spokesman and ranking official of the Vietnamese Defense Ministry, reported that at least 23,000 opposition guerrillas have moved from their base camps in Thailand to the Cambodian interior.

Military probes by the counterrevolutionary forces have already occurred. In early July the Khmer Rouge attacked government troops in the border area of Battambang Province accompanied by a heavy mortar barrage in support of the assault. After a retreat and regrouping of forces, government troops counterattacked, recapturing the territory and pushing the Khmer Rouge all the way back across the border into Thailand.

Khmer Rouge forces targeted the town of Pailin near the Thai border just days prior to the departure of Vietnamese troops. Some see this as an attempt to seize the first bit of territory in Cambodia. Artillery shelling from both sides has been intense.

## U.S. and allies divided

Vietnam's withdrawal and the prospect of increased military operations by the Khmer Rouge and other forces have divided Washington's allies in Southeast Asia.

The Thai government, looking for new markets for Thailand's products and new sources for raw materials, has shown increasing willingness over the past year to move toward normalizing relations with Vietnam and Cambodia. A growing number of Thai entrepreneurs are also doing business in Cambodia. Stepping up of military operations on the Thai-Cambodian border would threaten to bring this to a halt.

On September 23 Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan announced that the Cambodian government and Sihanouk had agreed to a new round of talks. The talks are to include representatives from France, as well as Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries. No date has been set.

Despite these moves, however, the Thai regime continues to provide a haven for the armed groups and serve as a conduit for military and other supplies.

The U.S. government's efforts to arm opposition forces has also stirred a debate within U.S. ruling circles. Prominent members of Congress have called on the George Bush administration to reconsider "lethal" aid to opposition forces in light of the failure of the Paris conference. Richard Holbrooke, former assistant secretary of state in the James Carter administration, has called the U.S. government's position indefensible.

International aid workers in Cambodia from several countries, including the United States, issued a statement criticizing their home governments for continuing to support the Khmer Rouge and other opposition forces. They noted the strides made by the Hun Sen government in rebuilding Cambodia and called on their countries to press for a cease-fire and to disarm the Khmer Rouge.

## Legacy of war and underdevelopment

The widespread hunger that Cambodians suffered under Pol Pot and the near famine that struck the country after the collapse of his regime have been overcome.

But the country faces massive problems. The underdevelopment resulting from nearly a century of French colonial pillage has been worsened by the destruction wrought by nearly two decades of U.S. aggression, civil war, and aid and trade embargoes. The per capita gross national income is estimated by the United Nations at only about \$80 annually.

In an effort to reinforce its position and stimulate the country's economy, the Hun Sen government has initiated several policy changes over the last period.



Long-term tenure to land with the right to pass it on to children has been granted to farmers. Since 1979 peasants were urged to farm land in collectives called "solidarity groups," but the groups have now divided the land among individual families.

Phnom Penh's central market is no longer run by the government to sell inexpensive, locally produced household goods. Instead, more than a dozen private gold and silver shops have opened. Scores of shops in downtown Phnom Penh specialize in importing and repairing used motorcycles, which sell for more than \$500 each. Video shops have also made an appearance. Private taxis often driven by moonlighting government officials became legal in April.

The National Assembly voted to amend the country's constitution to restore Buddhism — outlawed by the Khmer Rouge — to its former status as the state religion.

A proposal by Hun Sen allowing private banks to reopen has been postponed, Khieu Kanharith, editor of the weekly *Kampuchea* and member of the National Assembly said.

The U.S.-organized economic embargo against Cambodia continues to fray, with traders and business people from Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Singapore pursuing opportunities for investment and joint ventures with the government.

"Everyone thinks we are a Marxist-Leninist country," Cham Prasit, a senior aide to

Prime Minister Hun Sen, told reporters, "but you see what kind of economy we have here — it's not socialist. Our final goal is to build socialism, but that doesn't mean we can build socialism now. We need to be realistic."

## Social tensions

Economic recovery, in a context where capitalist relations predominate in trade and agriculture, has been accompanied by some increase in social tensions. International aid workers report growing resentment among the rural poor, who have not benefitted from the increasing living standards among middle-class layers in urban areas. There are reports of favoritism in the allotment of formerly collectivized land. Usury in the countryside has also become a significant problem with rates as high as 20 percent a month.

Despite these problems, Cambodian government officials are confident that the majority of the population would fight to defend the country to prevent a return of the Khmer Rouge. A 300,000-member village militia is being organized and armed to supplement the country's approximately 45,000 regular soldiers. Vietnamese military officials estimate that combined opposition forces total 37,000. Khmer Rouge troops are estimated to total 23,000.

Since 1979, a total of 25,300 Vietnamese soldiers have died inside Cambodia, with another 55,000 seriously wounded.

## Who is in the Cambodian opposition

The Cambodian counterrevolutionary opposition groups and their armed units are remnants from previous regimes that ruled the country prior to 1979.

Norodom Sihanouk heads one group. He became hereditary monarch of Cambodia in 1941, when it was a French colony. He headed the government from the winning of independence from France in 1954 until he was toppled in 1970.

Washington backed the coup against Sihanouk because he had resisted pressure to give full backing to the U.S. government's war against liberation movements in neighboring Vietnam and Laos in the late 1960s.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front, another component of the anti-government coalition, stems from the Khmer Serei bands backed by the CIA before the overturn of Sihanouk. The Khmer Serei supported the U.S.-dominated regime of Gen. Lon Nol, which succeeded Sihanouk. It is now headed by Son Sann.

After the 1970 coup, the U.S. military invaded Cambodia and carried out years of saturation bombing to counter the broad resistance movement, which included the Khmer Communist Party and Prince Sihanouk. The CP-led peasant guerrillas were known as the Khmer Rouge.

When the U.S. war was defeated and Lon Nol fell in 1975, the Khmer Rouge took power. Sihanouk served briefly as chief of state under this regime.

Claiming to be communist, the Khmer Rouge regime forcibly relocated Cambodia's urban population to the countryside to perform agricultural labor. All higher and elementary school education

was abolished. Freedom of religion was suppressed. Child labor became universal, and the seven-day workweek became the rule.

The only way such a regime could be maintained was through terror and repression. Mass executions carried out by the Khmer Rouge regime were responsible for the deaths of more than a million Cambodians. Some estimates range as high as 2 to 4 million killed.

The Cambodian population is now estimated at about 7 million.

Pol Pot was toppled by a joint operation of Vietnamese troops and sections of the Khmer Rouge that went into opposition to Pol Pot. They captured the capital city of Phnom Penh on Jan. 7, 1979. The Cambodian resistance fighters proclaimed the People's Republic of Kampuchea, naming Heng Samrin as president. Hun Sen was named foreign minister and in 1985 became the prime minister.

Pol Pot's forces fled to the border with Thailand where they were rearmed with assistance from the Chinese government and provided with bases and military protection by the Thai regime. There they linked up with the U.S.-backed Sihanouk and Son Sann forces, forming a coalition in 1982 headed by Sihanouk.

Washington and its allies imposed diplomatic and economic isolation on Cambodia following the 1979 ouster of Pol Pot. The UN General Assembly continues to recognize the Khmer Rouge, with the opposition coalition serving as a fig leaf, as the official representative of the country. This stance was reaffirmed in November 1988, in a vote of 122 to 19. P.T.

# Curtis support from Africa, Ireland, and Puerto Rico

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international

loured the progress of the case since then. Both he and Njalo said it was an international obligation to join in the defense of Curtis.

Other new supporters include Tichaona Muchenge and Albert Musarurwa. Muchenge is a leader of

cussed the case with and signed up as supporters of the defense campaign.

Corrigan works as a cattle farmer and is an elected official in Fermanagh representing Sinn Féin.

McGeown works in the education department of Sinn Féin in Belfast and accompanied the tour. He spent most of his youth in prison and was released several months ago. After reading all the literature, McGeown became an endorser and volunteered to win more supporters for Curtis.

**Puerto Rico** — Manuel Coss, managing editor of the weekly *Claridad*, added his name to the growing list of Curtis supporters on that Caribbean island. *Claridad* is the largest proindependence newspaper in Puerto Rico and reflects the views of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

El Taller de Formación Política, an organization that researches and publishes books covering Puerto Rican history and social development, also endorsed.

Marjorie Farmer, coordinator of the Comité Hispano Montessori, in Omaha, Nebraska, wrote to the war-

den at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory, where Curtis is incarcerated. She asked for an explanation of prison authorities prohibiting Curtis from receiving correspondence in Spanish.

"Although I'm concerned about Mr. Curtis," she writes, "I am really asking this question from the point of view of those of us who are concerned about issues affecting Hispanics in this country. I see your prohibition against receiving correspondence in Spanish as reflecting a prejudice against Hispanics. This same prejudice was voiced by police who originally arrested Mr. Curtis. The epithets they used as they mistreated him seem to be very much in line with the treatment he is being accorded now in the State Reformatory."

The frame-up of Curtis stems from his activities in defense of immigrant coworkers. When he was arrested and jailed Des Moines police beat him and called him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds."

An international campaign is being conducted by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to win prisoners the right to obtain literature and cor-

respondence in the language of their choice and to share literature with each other. Prison authorities have denied Curtis and other prisoners non-English materials and letters, claiming they are a "security" problem.

Thousands have joined in this campaign, forcing prison officials to release to Curtis a Spanish-English dictionary and a Spanish verb book. More recently he was allowed to receive the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*. The policy, however, remains in effect. Only a few weeks ago Curtis was denied a letter in Chinese from a group of garment workers in Philadelphia.

You can help in this fight by sending a protest message of your own or from your organization to: John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205.

Copies should be sent to: Attorney General Thomas J. Miller, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319; Paul Grossheim, Director, Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309; and the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

## DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. For more information about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

If you have news or reports on activities in support of Mark Curtis from your city or country, please send them to the *Militant*.

This week we received reports of new support for Mark Curtis from around the world.

**Southern Africa** — Malombo Ntshilonthilo and Collin Njalo, leaders of the African National Congress Youth Section, are new supporters of Mark Curtis. Ntshilonthilo learned of the Curtis defense campaign when he toured the United States in the spring of 1988 shortly after Curtis was arrested. He has fol-

lowed the progress of the case since then. Both he and Njalo said it was an international obligation to join in the defense of Curtis.

Paul Brickhill, manager of Grassroots Books, a bookstore featuring radical and socialist literature in Zimbabwe, also joined the campaign for justice for Curtis.

**Ireland** — Kathleen Denny, a Curtis supporter from Oakland, California, recently returned from a fact-finding tour of Northern Ireland, which is occupied by British troops.

Hundreds of Irish freedom fighters and activists are incarcerated by the British authorities there, and Denny found that many activists readily understood the stakes in Curtis' fight for justice. Paul Corrigan and Pat McGeown were among several people Denny dis-

government offensive. In July unemployment stood at 1.77 million according to official figures, or 6.2 percent of the work force. This figure excludes some 550,000 who would have been counted before 1982. On the old basis, the unemployed figure would have been 2.3 million or 8.1 percent of the work force.

Even so, the official figure is the highest it has been in postwar years at the top of a business cycle.

No national fight has been organized in engineering since 1979, when a one-hour reduction from 40 hours was won. Since then the postwar political retreat by the unions has accelerated, especially in engineering. As union literature points out, over the last decade profits have increased 172 percent and labor productivity by 43 percent — an annual average of 5.2 percent. This is the highest labor productivity increase of all the major capitalist economies, achieved mainly on the

backs of speedup and more flexible work rules.

In the face of this, winning the fight for a 35-hour workweek will require the mobilization of the engineering unions' full strength, as well as seeking other union allies. Engineering represents 40 percent of manufacturing output and provides virtually half of all export goods.

Union leaders have begun to mobilize the ranks, starting with the convening of mass meetings to explain the case. And with the new pay round looming, spearheaded by car workers, especially at Ford, where the 35-hour week demand is being placed up front, the challenge to generalize the fight and throw larger forces into the breach will be posed. The car bosses are outside the 5,000-member Engineering Employers Federation, which negotiates nationally with the Confed.

The miners, too, have begun campaigning around this issue.

## Court orders return of Cuban paintings to Miami art dealer

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

Ruling that the First Amendment protects the right to sell or exhibit Cuban paintings, U.S. District Judge Kenneth Ryskamp in Miami ordered the return of 200 Cuban paintings to art collector Ramon Cernuda.

On September 18 the judge found Cernuda's activities to be exempt from the provisions of the Trading with the Enemy Act, which bars most commerce with Cuba.

Half a dozen armed U.S. Customs Service agents seized the art dealer's works in May in raids on his home and book-publishing office in Miami. He was later charged with trading "with the enemy" under the act regulating the trade embargo against Cuba. This was the first time the U.S. government had seized Cuban art as contraband.

The works were confiscated one year after an attack against the Cuban Museum of Art

and Culture, founded 16 years ago by Cuban exiles in Miami. The gallery had organized a fund-raising auction that included a handful of paintings by four artists living in Cuba. Right-wing exile organizations mounted a terror campaign, including death threats, demanding that no works by "communist painters" be shown.

Cernuda, a vice-president of the museum, defended the gallery's right to display the works, and the auction was held. Days later a pipe bomb was set off outside, doing minor damage. Cernuda refused to resign from the board of directors despite pressure from other members.

Three days after the seizure of the 200 paintings from Cernuda, Jorge Mas Canosa, chairman of the right-wing Cuban American National Foundation, said the group's lobbying to enforce the trade embargo against Cuba had led to the federal investigation and raid.

Cernuda bought his paintings from Sotheby's and Christie's auction houses, who said they didn't know they had to acquire licenses from the U.S. Treasury Department to sell Cuban art. Such auction houses have listed post-1963 Cuban works in their catalogs and sold them. Ryskamp noted that about 900 paintings by Cuban artists have been sold in major auction houses. Cernuda published a book of photographs of his collection.

The art collector bought some of his paintings from the former press secretary for the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, who had brought some of the seized works to the United States.

Ryskamp ruled that as "the only art dealer subjected to government seizure of his collection" Cernuda had been a victim of "selective enforcement."

Cernuda said that at the Cuban Museum board's next meeting he will propose an exhibition of the paintings. "The controversy will not be ended until freedom of expression is respected in this community," he affirmed.

## An appeal to defenders of democratic rights

Funds are urgently needed to cover the costs of defending a victory by the Socialist Workers Party for democratic rights. On August 15 a federal judge in Los Angeles found in favor of the Socialist Workers Party in a 10-year harassment lawsuit waged by Alan Gelfand and the Workers League. An appeal by Gelfand and the Workers League is anticipated.

Defenders of democratic rights, opponents of the use of courts to bleed and divert the resources of working-class organizations, and all who have come to recognize the importance of pushing back the disruption operations of the Workers League have a stake in joining to end this violation of democratic rights.

Everyone who supports this fight can help by sending a contribution to help cover the costs that will mount quickly in fighting the Workers League appeal.

Please do so today.

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., a nonprofit foundation, at P.O. Box 761, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10007.

Copies of the court ruling can be obtained for \$5 from the Political Rights Defense Fund at the same address.

Des Moines  
The Mark Curtis Defense Committee invites you to a  
**CELEBRATION and PICNIC**  
October 1, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.  
(at a farm outside Des Moines)

Celebrate with us the accomplishments to date in the campaign for justice for Mark Curtis, hear a report on perspectives for fall activities, and help give a boost to the \$100,000 defense fund.

For more information call (515) 246-1695  
Transportation available from 2105 Forest Ave. in Des Moines

# Palestinians facing deportation sue FBI for bugging

BY HARRY RING

A suit has been filed against the FBI and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to stop their illegal wiretapping of the Los Angeles Eight and their lawyers.

The eight — seven Palestinians and the Kenyan wife of one — face deportation on trumped-up charges.

The Justice Department argues that the wiretaps are legal under the Foreign Surveillance Act, asserting the eight may be involved in activity that threatens "national security."

The suit was filed last month by Peter Schey of the National Center for Immigrant Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union, and others. Schey is one of the lawyers for the Los Angeles Eight.

The eight were arrested in January 1987. To create scare headlines, the FBI and INS staged elaborate dawn raids. They were held without bail until a judge ordered their release when the INS failed to present evidence to bolster its assertion that they were "security risks."

Initially, all of the eight were charged with violating the McCarran-Walter Act, a law adopted in the early 1950s during the witch-hunt, that permits deportation or exclusion of immigrants on the basis of what they think.

The government asserted the eight were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The PFLP, the government contended, advocates the doctrines of world communism.

Since then, the case has had a complex legal history, mainly because the government has suffered significant setbacks in its moves to victimize the eight.

For one thing, the eight won broad support — in the Arab community and among civil liberties groups and many others concerned with democratic rights, including a number of prominent Jewish figures.

One result of the attempt to deport the eight was a landmark legal victory for democratic rights for immigrants.

After the arrests, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the ACLU, and others, filed suit on April 6, 1987, challenging the constitutionality of the McCarran-Walter Act. In January of this year federal Judge Stephen Wilson ruled that the ideological provisions of the act were unconstitutional. He found they violated the First Amendment rights of noncitizens.

If the First Amendment, which guarantees free speech, gives a citizen the right to advocate communist ideas, then a noncitizen is entitled to that same First Amendment right. This decision is being appealed by the INS.

In the case of Khader Hamide and Michel Shehadeh, who are permanent legal residents, the charge of advocating world communism was dropped in response to the 1987 lawsuit. Instead, they were charged under another McCarran-Walter provision, this one barring affiliation with an organization (the PFLP) that advocates or teaches damage or destruction of property.

In a further move to circumvent the barrier to deportation on ideological grounds, the INS added new charges against Hamide and Shehadeh on July 24, 1989.

Using still another provision of the McCarran-Walter Act, this one barring "terrorists," they are now charged with involvement with an organization — again, the PFLP — that allegedly advocates killing public officials. The constitutionality of this remains to be ruled on.

Meanwhile, the other six defendants, who are in the United States on student or visitor visas, were recharged on a variety of technical grounds — taking too few units in school, working part-time on a student visa, overstaying a visitor's visa, and so on.

Three of the defendants have had the proceedings against them tabled pending the outcome of their application for permanent residence under the federal "amnesty" law.

One defendant, Amjad Obeid, was found deportable on the grounds that he worked without authorization during his stay here on a student visa.

Here, the government is trying to reintroduce the ideological grounds of the Mc-

Carran-Walter Act, which were barred as the basis for deportation. With the finding against him on the visa violation charge, Obeid has applied to the INS for discretionary relief on the basis of his marriage to a U.S. citizen. The prosecution indicated it will oppose the discretionary relief he would otherwise be entitled to on the basis, again, of asserted advocacy of "communist" ideas.

Meanwhile, Judge Wilson also agreed to hold a trial proceeding on a key point in the eight's defense — that they are the victims of selective prosecution.

The defense has introduced evidence that many noncitizens who do in fact advocate — and often practice — the destruction of property or assaulting officials are not targeted for deportation. These include Nicaraguan contras and counterrevolutionary Cuban exiles.

Declaration of support for the eight and financial contributions for their defense, may be sent to: Committee for Justice to: Stop the McCarran-Walter Act Deportations, P.O. Box 4631, Los Angeles, Calif. 90051.



Militant/Nelson Blackstock

Some of the Los Angeles Eight outside federal building in 1987. Michel Shehadeh (far right) and Khader Hamide (with glasses) are charged with belonging to an organization "advocating damage to property," the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. At center, Julie Mungai, a Kenyan also accused of being PFLP member.

## Polynesians hit hardest by New Zealand recession

BY MIKE BROWN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Nearly one-third of the Maoris and one-fourth of the Pacific Islanders in the work force in New Zealand are unemployed, according to an official household labor force survey for the first three months of 1989. In contrast, one in nine of the work force as a whole is jobless.

Maoris are the descendants of the indigenous Polynesian peoples who were dispossessed of their lands through the British colonization of New Zealand in the last century. Pacific Islanders are first- and second-generation Polynesian immigrants from the island nations of the South Pacific, several of which were colonies of New Zealand. Together they make up nearly 16 percent of the country's population of 3.3 million.

Over the past two years, the survey showed, joblessness among Maoris doubled, while it increased more than threefold for Pacific Islanders. For the rest of the work-force, mostly of European descent, unemployment climbed from 5.1 percent to 8.7 percent.

Unemployment is especially severe in rural regions in the north and east of New Zealand, where Maoris are a large part of the population. In these areas unemployment is running at almost double the national rate. According to figures cited in the July 8 *New Zealand Herald*, in the far north of the country 41 percent of the working-age population, excluding dependent spouses, are jobless and receiving some kind of government benefit.

These statistics reveal that the conditions of life for Maori and Pacific Island workers are worsening at a faster pace than those of the European-descended majority under the impact of the deep economic recession of the past two years. Maori and Pacific Island workers are the main victims of layoffs — 20 percent of manufacturing jobs have disappeared during this period — and the last to be hired in new jobs.

They are the main victims of the government austerity drive, which has seen the loss of 40,000 government jobs and cuts in social programs for the unemployed. For example, two-thirds of jobs have been eliminated in forestry and thousands more in highways and other public works that have been a major source of employment for rural Maoris.

As part of government spending cuts, fully subsidized work programs that employed more than 20,000 people at union wage in 1983 have been abolished. Government subsidized work in the private sector has been cut from more than 20,000 workers to 8,000 in the same period. The government has also slashed unemployment benefits by hundreds of millions of dollars.

In this context, the government and the employers are blaming the victims themselves, particularly immigrant workers, for the unemployment crisis.

the capitalist politicians, media, and employers.

A particular target has been a minimum quota system introduced for the recruitment and training of primary school teachers that links the number of Maori and Pacific Island trainees to the proportion of Maori and Pacific Island children in the classrooms.

Another focus of attack has been the Waitangi Tribunal. This is a special court, with a majority of Maori members, empowered to investigate violations of the Treaty of Waitangi since its signing in 1840 and to recommend government remedies. The treaty, between leading Maori chiefs and the British Crown, among other things, guarantees Maoris perpetual sovereignty over their lands and fisheries. Recent court rulings and government legislation have tended to give the treaty the power of law for the first time.

In 1987 two landmark court decisions were made. The first directed the government to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of Maori commercial fishing rights. The government's current offer is an interim 10 percent of the overall marine fishery for the next four years, with a NZ\$10 million grant (US\$6 million) to help Maoris get into commercial fishing. The second decision blocked the government from transferring 10 million acres of public land to state-owned corporations in preparation for its sale to private business interests.

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# Boeing workers in Portland contribute to strike

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists members struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by flight attendants and pilots, the walkout crippled Eastern, grounding a big majority of its 1,040 prestrike daily flights.

Since July Eastern has been trying to restart operations. By Sep-

## SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

tember 7 it was scheduling 600 daily flights.

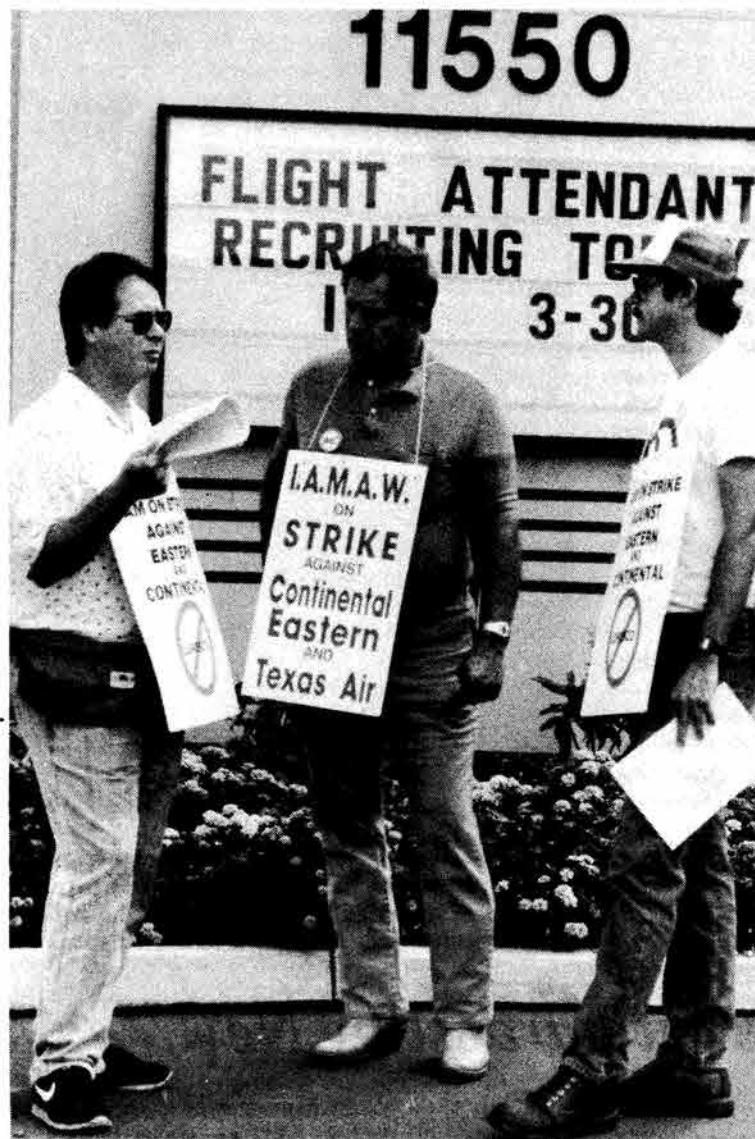
The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working people in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

Boeing workers in Portland, Oregon, took up a collection for the Eastern strikers at a mass meeting September 14, held to take a strike sanction vote. Members of Machinists Local 63, which represents workers at Boeing's aerospace plant in that city, contributed \$250.

The Boeing contract, which covers 57,000 workers in Seattle, Portland, and Wichita, Kansas, expires October 3. The vote to authorize a strike passed overwhelmingly.

Another \$240 was raised in a special collection for Eastern flight attendants by Machinists Local 1885, which represents United and Northwest workers at the airport.

A few days earlier — on September 7, 9, and 10 — Eastern strikers in Portland put up spirited picket



Militant/Janet Post

Eastern strikers' picket line in front of Days Inn at Portland International Airport.

lines to protest the airline's efforts to hire scab mechanics and flight attendants. The picket lines were held at the Days Inn at Portland International Airport.

The first session was for mechanics. Some 15 pickets distributed leaflets to potential applicants, urging

them to support the strike and not apply at Eastern. More people were on the picket line than went in for jobs.

Unionists who joined strikers on the picket line included Machinists from United and Northwest airlines, postal workers, garment workers, of-

fice employees, rail workers, and others. A pilot working for Trans World Airlines who was staying at the hotel also joined the line for a while.

Pickets at the next two sessions, which were to hire flight attendants, also had a big impact. Several would-be applicants turned around and left after seeing the pickets and finding out about the strike. Several others who went into the session told pickets they were not impressed with what Eastern had to say and were not going to apply.

A young Black woman said she understood the importance of working for a union-organized airline. A young man who had gone into the session stopped by to talk with pickets afterward. Inside, Eastern was telling people the strike was over, he reported.

Pickets also received a warm response from people driving by the motel — as evidenced by the steady stream of honks and thumbs-up signs.

On September 19 the Oregon AFL-CIO meeting in Portland, adjourned its convention for half an hour to join the Eastern picket line at the airport. Some \$1,200 was raised for the strike at the convention through donations and sales of "Stop Lorenzo" buttons.

Farmers attending the annual Iowa National Farmers Union convention, held in Des Moines, gave a warm welcome to striking Eastern Machinist Ernest Mailhot when he spoke to their gathering September 9.

Mailhot, a member of Machinists Local 1018 at La Guardia Airport in New York, told the farmers about the support the Eastern strike has won throughout the labor movement. Although he has spoken to at least 80 meetings of unions and other organizations since the strike started,

Mailhot said, this was the first opportunity he has had to speak to farmers.

A motion was made and carried from the convention floor to draft a resolution in support of the strike.

Farmers continued talking informally with Mailhot after his talk. What's happening to the unions is also happening to farmers, explained one convention participant, and that's why workers and farmers have to stand together. Another farmer made a small donation to the strike.

Mailhot also spoke about the Eastern strike at a meeting sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum.

Hundreds of striking Machinists union members, flight attendants, and pilots, joined by other unionists, demonstrated at the Texas Air Corp. stockholders' meeting, held in Houston September 13 and 14. Texas Air, headed by Frank Lorenzo, owns both Eastern and Continental airlines.

Members of other Machinists locals, postal workers, communications workers, and others marched with the strikers in front of the Four Seasons Hotel.

The picket line was the largest action in Houston since the strike began. Strikers also maintain daily picket lines at Houston's Hobby and Intercontinental airports.

Although no Eastern planes fly out of Houston, Intercontinental Airport serves as a hub for Continental.

The action at the shareholders' meeting was a big boost for the strikers. Local television, radio, and newspapers covered the picket line, bringing more publicity for the strikers than they had had in months.

Jason Redrup from Des Moines, Mary Selvas from Houston, and Connie Allen and Brian Williams from Portland contributed to this column.

# Australia striking pilots fight bosses' offensive

## Companies refuse to recognize right of pilots' association to represent members.

BY KATE BLAKENEY

SYDNEY, Australia — Australian domestic pilots, now in the sixth week of their strike, are fighting a national and international campaign launched by airline owners.

The airline companies — Ansett and Australian — have placed recruitment advertisements in newspapers around the world. Within the country radio stations carry ads every hour promising good pay, seniority status, and promotion prospects to any pilots prepared to scab on the strike.

The pilots are fighting to win a 30 percent pay increase, which, they argue, will bring them in line with salaries paid to pilots in other countries.

The airline companies, backed by the Labor government, are refusing to discuss the wage demands because they are outside the wage guidelines accord adopted by the unions, government, and bosses. The accord allows pay hikes of only 6 percent.

Two days after the strike began all 1,645 pilots resigned in face of the airlines' move to fire and sue them for millions of dollars in damages caused by their action. The strike reduced domestic air travel from 36,000 passengers a day to 2,600.

### Strikebreaking moves

The companies now say they will offer employment contracts only to individual pilots. They are also refusing to recognize the right of the Australian Federation of Air Pilots (AFAP) to represent its members in negotiations.

Sir Peter Abeles, chief executive of Ansett,

said, "As far as we are concerned we have nothing to talk to them about. We may as well talk to the Bankstown Bowling Club."

The pilots are also up against the airlines' attempts to patch together flights with rented aircraft. The federal government has backed these moves by allowing aircraft from the Royal Australian Airforce to carry passengers daily.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke continued his attack on the strike last week with a seven-page statement outlining the strategy to defeat "a small group who would destroy the Australian economy." He added that the government's aim is to get "the maximum number of planes flying as soon as possible." On September 19 the government agreed

to pay compensation to the airlines for part of the \$20 million wages bill to the industry's other 27,000 employees.

### 'System under stress'

The attempts to get the planes back into the air has "put the system under considerable stress," the Professional Radio and Electronics Institute reported. The Civil Aviation Authority added that the number of air traffic incidents, including near misses, had risen to three times the normal weekly rate.

To help counter the airlines' recruitment campaign, the AFAP has won the backing of the International Federation of Air Pilots in London, which warned safety would be compromised if the airlines recruited overseas

pilots. It explained that the worldwide pilot shortage meant only inexperienced and less-qualified pilots would be recruited.

The Air Line Pilots Association in the United States issued a statement saying that pilots who signed up with the Australian airlines would be "scabs, who would carry the stigma for the rest of their lives."

In another development, air traffic controllers pushing for a wage-increase settlement higher than allowed under the wage-fixing system have rejected a lower pay offer. A spokesperson for the Civil Air Operations Association, Patrick Prendegast, said negotiations in the Industrial Relations Commission had proven that the commission was nothing but a "bosses' court."

# Eastern sells \$210 million in assets to Midway

BY KATHY MITCHELL

PHILADELPHIA — On September 12 New York federal Judge Burton Lifland, who is overseeing Eastern Airlines' bankruptcy proceedings, approved Eastern's sale of \$210 million in planes, gates, and routes to Midway Airlines.

The deal includes nine gates at Philadelphia International Airport, 16 DC-9-31 aircraft, and routes from Philadelphia to Toronto and Montréal. The package also includes four gates in Boston and landing slots at New York's La Guardia and Washington, D.C.'s National airports.

Texas Air Corp., Eastern Airlines' parent corporation, had owned 13 gates in Philadelphia. Continental Airlines, another subsidiary of Texas Air Corp., leases three of these gates. Braniff and Midway each lease one. Eastern would no longer own any of the gates after the sale to Midway, but would have the right to lease back three of them.

Midway Airlines is based in Chicago at

Midway Airport. At its Miami and Chicago bases, mechanics are organized by the Teamsters union. Pilots are represented by the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA). The Association of Flight Attendants is currently negotiating a contract for flight attendants with Midway in those cities. In Philadelphia, mechanics and ramp workers have no union.

"This sale of Eastern assets to Midway poses an important challenge to the entire labor movement," Josefina Otero, a member of the speakers' bureau of Machinists Lodge 1776, said. "Most of the strikers see this as Lorenzo's attempt to break the strike here in Philadelphia." Some 200 members of the local are on strike against Eastern in Philadelphia.

How to respond to this latest move by Eastern is a big discussion among strikers, Otero said.

The transaction has been less than smooth. The International Association of Machinists Bulletin carried reports from ALPA that Mid-

way pilots refused to operate the DC-9s delivered by Eastern. Four of Midway's check pilots, who perform flight evaluations prior to departure, also refused. Finally management pilots were asked to fly them and one of them refused.

ALPA also reported that maintenance's "initial acceptance" inspection of the aircraft revealed that none of the equipment matched. Using computer printouts as references, maintenance workers discovered that engines were installed on the wrong aircraft, instruments were incorrectly installed or were not working, and instrument serial numbers failed to match. "The airplanes were a sham," maintenance workers said.

"This is part of Lorenzo's reorganization plan," Otero explained, "and we can expect more of this. He can't pay Eastern's creditors and continues to lose money at Continental because of our strike. What is important for the union is to maintain our unity and move forward to meet this challenge."



# Hoover family fights Mississippi police frame-up

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Ben and Gloria Hoover, who live in Berkeley, Missouri, just outside St. Louis, have spent the last nine months fighting a police frame-up in Mississippi.

The Hoovers' struggle began last December 27 when they were driving home through Mississippi from a Christmas visit with relatives in New Orleans. They described what happened in an August interview.

Ben and Gloria Hoover and their children were headed home on Interstate 55, which runs from New Orleans up through the middle of Mississippi, north to St. Louis. One of the cities it passes through is Jackson, the Mississippi state capital.

The Hoovers were driving in a two-car caravan. Ben Hoover, Sr., Gloria Hoover, and their children Celicia, Gwendolyn, and Jonathan were in the lead van. Benjamin Hoover, Jr., his girlfriend, and their baby were following behind.

Near one of the Jackson exits, the cops signaled for Ben Hoover, Sr., to pull over. It was late afternoon.

After he pulled onto the road's shoulder, Hoover started to get out of the van to see what the problem was.

The cop "started to curse at me, 'Get your Black ass back in there.' I was trying to figure out what was going on," Hoover recalled. "My son had pulled up and gotten out of the car to see what was happening, and the cop said the same thing to him. So my son got back in the car." The same thing happened to Gloria Hoover.

The cop then called for backup on his radio. "My first reaction was that I was glad he was calling for backup, because he was acting so wild," Hoover said.

"Three other police drove up. I was leaning against the van, and the first thing they did was jump me. No questions or anything," Hoover said. "I tried to ask them what was going on. 'We don't have to tell you anything,' they said."

The cops twisted his arm and dragged him into the police car. One cop punched him in the back.

By this time Gloria Hoover had gotten out of the van again. Yelling racist epithets, the cops told her to get back in. As she went to get back in, one cop grabbed her by the back of her collar and swung her around. "Then there were three officers punching me in the face," she said. "I passed out."

The cops handcuffed her and dragged her through a marshy area, leaving her lying in the mud. "When I came to, I was being dragged by the handcuffs to the police car." She was dragged 130 feet, past several cop cars, and put in the last one. Her shoulder was badly injured.

Meanwhile the cops were beating Celicia, Gwendolyn, and Benjamin Hoover, Jr. The three young people, all college students, were subjected to a barrage of racist epithets, handcuffed, and arrested.

The beatings might have continued if spectators hadn't started to gather, and take pictures. This included a bus with 24 students from other countries that was heading back to Jackson from a trip to Philadelphia, Mississippi, where the students had visited the memorial for James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, three civil rights workers murdered there by the Ku Klux Klan in 1964. The international students were attending a U.S. government-sponsored seminar on "Race Relations in the New South."

## Funds needed to aid Hoovers' defense

The Hoover Family Defense Fund has been established to raise funds for legal and other defense expenses involved in fighting the frame-up. For more information, or to send contributions and messages of support, write to Hoover Family Defense Fund, P.O. Box 5905, St. Louis, Missouri 63134.

A local television camera crew also arrived. The cops hurriedly drove the Hoovers away.

After their arrests, the Hoovers were denied medical attention until their release on bail seven hours later.

Ben, Sr., Gloria, Celicia, Gwendolyn, and Ben, Jr., were charged with 19 counts stemming from the assault, including speeding, resisting arrest, and failing to obey a police officer.

### April 21 trial

At the Hoovers' trial April 21 the arresting officer said he had stopped Hoover's van for "speeding up and slowing down." The family's attorney, Chokwe Lumumba, pointed out that there was no mention of that in the arrest report. As a matter of fact, when he was in the back of the police car, Ben Hoover, Sr., overheard the cops trying to figure out their story. "What do we charge them with?" said one. "Resisting arrest," the other one replied. "Yeah, but what can we say we stopped them for?" asked the other.

It took Municipal Judge William Barnett only five minutes to find the Hoovers guilty on 11 of the 19 charges.

"Don't argue your constitutional rights with the Highway Patrol at midnight on a country road," the judge opined.

Barnett dropped eight of the charges, including all those against Ben Hoover, Jr., and fined the Hoovers \$25 for each guilty count. They were allowed to return home to St. Louis to raise the money.

Although the convictions are all for misdemeanors, the Hoovers face jail time if the convictions aren't overturned on appeal.

The Jackson police department did an internal investigation and found no fault with the cops' actions. They spoke with three people who saw the incident, and none saw any police violence. None of the witnesses who could corroborate the Hoovers' story were interviewed.

The appeal, with a jury trial, is set for November 17, at the courthouse in Jackson, 327 East Pascagoula Street. The Hoovers are asking for all supporters who can to attend the trial.

### Racist cop attacks in Jackson

The assault on the Hoovers was not an isolated incident. Black rights activists in Jackson report an increase in cases of police racism and brutality. "There is a very strong feeling by many people that racial violence by police is more apparent now than it was a few years before," Aaron Henry, leader of the Mississippi National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* after the Hoovers' arrest.

Jackson, with a population of 236,000, is the largest city in the state. Some 47 percent of people in the city are Black.

The day before the Hoovers' trial, a rally of 150 was held in Jackson to protest police racism and brutality. One demonstrator had his arm broken by the cops, Ben Hoover said.

Jackson Concerned Citizens, a 10-year-old group that was revitalized after the attack on the Hoovers, and the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression in St. Louis have helped publicize the case and raise funds for the Hoovers' defense expenses.

The Hoovers' case has received significant coverage from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and other media in St. Louis, as well as from the *Jackson Advocate*, a Black community paper in Mississippi.

### 1979 frame-up

The police assault last December was not the Hoovers' first experience with racist injustice.

In 1977 they moved from Chicago to Pickens, Mississippi — Ben Hoover's hometown. Pickens is 40 miles north of Jackson, in Holmes County. The county is a rural area whose population is majority Black. "We had heard about the 'new South,'" explained Gloria Hoover, "and decided to move back." Ben had a small hauling business.



Militant/Janet Post

### Gloria and Ben Hoover

In 1979 they bought two acres of land in Holmes County off Interstate 55 with the idea of building a motel and lounge.

This enraged the white owner of a truckstop across the road, who wanted the land himself and especially didn't want it to be owned by Blacks, as it had been until then. "He told us, 'You all don't need this land,'" Ben Hoover recalled. "He offered us some land in another area."

When the Hoovers refused to sell, threats began. County officials denied them permits to work on the land. They dug up a road on the side of the Hoovers' property, making access difficult.

Finally, during the night of Aug. 10, 1980, Ben Hoover was ambushed and shot at by two men. His car was riddled with bullet holes.

Hoover was charged with aggravated assault.

One day, without any time to prepare his defense, Hoover was ordered to report to court for the trial.

At the trial, the judge found Hoover guilty and ordered both him and Gloria Hoover to leave the state of Mississippi and never return. They were told to go to New Orleans.

In early April 1981 Hoover returned to Holmes County after getting a phone call that his property — his trucks, car, livestock, and more — was being removed from his grandparents' property. He found a white businessman and two others taking his possessions away. He was told he would be reimbursed \$10,000 for the equipment.

The Hoovers moved to St. Louis that month. Ben Hoover soon got a call to return to Mississippi for the trial of the white businessman.

When he got there, Hoover was arrested for violating his probation by returning to the state. His probation was revoked, and he was sent to Parchman State Penitentiary for 32 months.

While Hoover was in jail, his family fought to expose what had happened and win his release. Gwendolyn and Celicia, who were then 15 and 16, took a bus to Washington, D.C., to seek publicity and help from the U.S. Justice Department, church groups, and the office of Sen. John Stennis. They dressed in prison garb to draw attention to their father's plight.

Hoover was finally released in December 1983 and returned to St. Louis.

Because of their experiences, Ben and Gloria Hoover understand the importance of solidarity with other victims of capitalist injustice.

They are active supporters of Mark Curtis, the young packinghouse worker and union activist who was framed and imprisoned last year in Des Moines, Iowa, on phony rape and burglary charges. He is serving a 25-year sentence in the state prison in Anamosa, Iowa.

The Hoovers were honored guests at an international defense rally held for Mark Curtis in Oberlin, Ohio, in early August. Gloria Hoover is speaking at a defense rally for Curtis in St. Louis September 30.

"With police crime," Gloria Hoover said, explaining her support for Curtis, "they're not singling out just one class of people. They're attacking anyone who fights for human rights. And those of us who are fighting need to stick together."

*Jim Rogers from St. Louis contributed to this article.*

## 60,000 New York phone workers on strike since August 6

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — Some 60,000 telephone workers here are still on strike against NYNEX Corp., the regional phone company for New York and the New England states. The strike began August 6 when more than 160,000 phone workers walked off the job in 15 states. A week later 40,000 workers joined the walkout in five more states.

Phone workers have since reached agreements with two of the four affected telephone companies: Ameritech in the Midwest, and Bell Atlantic in the mid-Atlantic region.

On September 25 the Communications Workers of America (CWA), which organizes 42,000 phone workers in the California and Nevada region, announced it had rejected a tentative agreement with the Pacific Telesis telephone company. Pacific Telesis workers had been back at work for a month, after a three-week strike.

Still on the picket lines at NYNEX are 40,000 members of the CWA and 20,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

On September 15 NYNEX announced it was cutting off medical and life insurance benefits for the strikers. The same day, the state of Massachusetts granted the strikers unemployment benefits.

"The company's last bargaining proposal contained inadequacies in the area of wages, pensions, and job security as well, but management's stubborn demand that we pay an ever-increasing portion of health cost is the main obstacle to reaching a contract settlement," explained a recent fact sheet put out by the NYNEX strikers.

NYNEX is demanding that workers pay up to \$1,500 each annually to maintain their health-care coverage.

NYNEX is one of seven regional phone companies created in 1984 when American Telephone & Telegraph was broken up by court order.

Workers at New Jersey Bell, a subsidiary of Bell Atlantic, ended their walkout September 5 when the IBEW reached an agreement with the company. The CWA reached an agreement August 28.

The tentative IBEW three-year contract calls for a 3 percent base wage increase in the first year, and 2.25 percent hikes along with a cost-of-living adjustment in each of the next two contract years. The agreement includes a delay in implementing a company proposed health-care plan.

"We are not happy with it all, but that's the best we can do," said Robert Jones referring to the agreement. Jones is vice-president of IBEW Local 827.

The IBEW had sought a higher wage increase. The union also opposed New Jersey Bell's decision to increase the annual deductible for medical expenses for individuals and family members, as well as its decision to pay only 80 percent of the health-care bill instead of the full 100 percent when employees do not use doctors approved by the company health-care plan.

Since the beginning of their strike, NYNEX workers have held rallies and marches to gain support for their fight and have participated in joint actions with other strikers, including Eastern workers and Pittston coal miners.

# Exxon leaves 300 miles of blackened shores

BY HARRY RING

As Exxon abruptly ended its Alaska oil spill cleanup September 15, state officials charged that as much as 7 million gallons of crude oil continue to foul the area of Prince William Sound.

More than 300 miles of treated shoreline remains saturated with muck, as much as three feet deep.

After the *Exxon Valdez* crashed onto a reef last March, spilling 11 million gallons of oil, Exxon said cleanup crews would remain until the 1,300 miles of polluted shoreline were clean. In calling off the operation, it refused to commit itself to returning in the spring.

Instead, the company declared the area "environmentally stable" and split.

Alaska officials said state crews would continue cleanup efforts during the winter and compensation would be demanded from Exxon.

They also said a team of mental health workers will be established to aid Alaskans coping with spill-related stress.

In the six months since the spill, the number of admissions at the Valdez mental health

center has doubled.

Meanwhile, the animal and bird toll continues to mount.

So far, 33,000 dead sea birds and 980 sea otters have been found. Federal wildlife biologists estimate that these represent some 10 to 30 percent of the actual toll.

In the past month alone, 3,000 freshly killed birds have been found, some as far as 500 miles from the site of the spill.

## Suit filed

In August the state of Alaska filed suit against Exxon, charging that its negligence was responsible for the spill.

It charges Exxon failed to staff its giant tanker adequately and to supervise its crews properly.

The suit also names the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., which runs the Trans-Alaska pipeline, charging it failed to respond to the spill promptly and adequately.

A corporate front for Exxon and six other oil giants, Alyeska owns the pipeline that runs from Alaska's northern Arctic slope to the Port of Valdez.

The other owners are Mobil, Atlantic Richfield, British Petroleum, Phillips, Amerada Hess, and Unocal.

When the suit comes to trial, it could be useful if Alaska officials located and called as witnesses three members of Exxon's management team who gave interviews, anonymously, to the *Boston Globe* on May 13.

The three executives sketched a picture of a profit-hungry corporation determined to boost production and cut costs regardless of risk.

They pointed to cost-cutting for shipboard repairs. Crews, they charged, were reduced to dangerously low levels. And, they said, heavy forced overtime added to the risk.

(At a federal hearing in Alaska this spring it was established that the *Exxon Valdez* crew of 20 was a third smaller than those on older vessels. The Coast Guard okayed this on the basis of the ship's new technology. Meanwhile, the members of the reduced crew were working an average of 140 hours' overtime a month.)

Ships' mates, one executive said, work more than 100 hours a week, in violation of

federally required shift breaks.

Exxon, they disclosed, makes a practice of hiring former Coast Guard inspectors. One of their functions is to help grease the way for Coast Guard approval of crew reductions.

The three Exxon executives indicated that Capt. Joseph Hazelwood, indicted skipper of the *Exxon Valdez*, is being made a scapegoat by Exxon. They believe he may have been pressured to sail at midnight to make room in the port for incoming tankers.

"There was ice in the sound," one said. "It was midnight, everybody knows a ship's radar won't pick up ice, and until recently, transits were allowed in these conditions only in daylight."

Exxon is the world's biggest oil company, with declared assets of more than \$74 billion. Last year, it pocketed profits of \$4.84 billion.

One way it does that is squeezing every dime.

Experts agree that when the *Exxon Valdez* went aground it probably would not have sprung the ruinous leak if it had been built with a double hull.

But the oil companies balk at any added cost. Building the *Exxon Valdez* with only a single hull meant an estimated savings of \$22.5 million — a fraction of the dollar cost of the Alaska spill.

A decade ago the oil industry got an international maritime commission to agree that double hulls were not safer.

## Findings ignored

The Coast Guard went along with that even though its own earlier study of 30 tanker groundings showed that in 27 of them, double hulls would probably have prevented spills.

Double hulls are mandatory for tankers carrying liquid natural gas, and there are 50 of them operating, many of them as big as the *Exxon Valdez*.

Two of the biggest double-hulled gas carriers have suffered major grounding accidents with full cargoes. Despite heavy damage to their bottoms, not a single gallon of gas was lost.

The Alaska oil spill was a worst case scenario, but far from an isolated incident.

From 1980 to 1986, 91 million gallons of oil and 36 million gallons of other toxics were spilled in U.S. coastal waters.

Last year alone, there were more than 5,000 spills.

During the Alaska cleanup, Exxon fired hundreds of workers for either failing or refusing to take urine drug tests. One report said 400 were fired in the Valdez area alone.

According to a report from Valdez, workers were also fired for photographing the oil sludge on beaches or for refusing to falsify the count of dead birds and animals.



Militant Liverpool City Council worker cleans beach near Garston Docks, Liverpool.

# Shell oil slick fouls river in England

BY TIM RIGBY

MANCHESTER, England — A Shell Co. oil pipeline burst on the banks of the Mersey River estuary in northwest England on August 19. Over the next two days 150 tons of heavy Venezuelan crude oil covered 70 percent of the surface of the estuary's waters and contaminated shorelines up and down its 20-mile length. The ports of Liverpool and Birkenhead were severely affected.

Exceptionally high tides took the slick to the very head of the estuary, causing the worst pollution on marshes close to the towns of Widnes and Runcorn. These two towns, downstream from the industrial city of Manchester and surrounding manufacturing towns, are the birthplace of the world's modern chemical industries.

The recent oil slick represents one more serious episode in a history of chemical pollution going back over 150 years. The Mersey is one of the most heavily polluted rivers in Britain.

Despite the pollution, the marshes on the upper reaches of the estuary remain a vital site for Europe's migratory wildfowl and wading birds. According to the British-based Wildfowl Trust, more than 60,000 of these birds winter on the marshes.

The marshes are seen as internationally important both to the birds' numbers and for their role in the lives of six species — shelduck, wigeon, teal, dunlin, redshank, and pintail.

The Wildfowl Trust, among other conservation organizations, is now especially worried as the birds begin their annual return to the marshland. Conservationists believe any attempt to clean the oil off the birds' feeding sites will cause even worse damage to the habitat.

Against a background of chemical plants and under the shadow of the Fidlers Ferry power station, Alan Butler, a local bird watcher and industrial worker, served as a guide through the marshland sites. Close to the working-class residential areas of Widnes, he pointed out the contamination remaining from the slick.

Butler explained that two days earlier, a cloud of hydrogen fluoride had been accidentally released from a nearby Imperial Chemicals Industry factory. The release of this highly corrosive acid gas caused a pollution emergency. The factory produces chlorofluorocarbons.

Butler pointed out a factory that produces paraquat, a highly toxic weed killer and another that makes phenol, which is potentially fatal through skin absorption. Several tall factory chimney stacks discharging toxic and polluting gases, often at night, are locally held responsible for nose, throat, and lung problems experienced in the neighborhood. All are clearly visible from the marshes.

A company in town producing phosgene, a World War I battlefield gas, has leafleted local households informing them of emergency measures to take in case of an accidental release of this deadly gas, Butler re-

vealed. The leaflet tells people to block the cracks at the bottom of outside doors with wet towels and stay inside to escape the gas' effects. World War I mustard gas was stored on nearby Wig Island in the Mersey at one time.

Walking to one of several industrial drains crossing the marsh toward the river, Butler explained that one particular drain runs in a variety of colors. That day it was orange.

Until the oil leak, the marshes had been grazed by a herd of cattle now kept in their sheds by a local small farmer. Across their old grazing land, wide bands of oil brought up by successive high tides are plainly seen. Along the river's bank, thick oil covers plants and blankets mud. Years will pass before the oil finally disappears.

The Shell Oil spill has reversed 10 years of attempts to clean up the river, representatives of the Mersey Basin Campaign said. The campaign is a group organized to tackle the pollution of the Mersey.

While Shell has announced a project to monitor the effects of the oil spill, its lack of preparation and slow response worsened the damage. The leak was spotted more than 15 miles from its source and reported to the Coast Guard before Shell management was aware of it. Two days passed before Shell began a clean-up.

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Buses and cars from Boyd and Nemaha counties, where other US Ecology sites have been chosen, as well as supporters and environmental activists from Omaha and Kansas streamed into the fields adjacent to the Farmers Co-op Union where the rally was held. Tractors and horse-drawn hay wagons ferried people from the makeshift parking lots to the rally site.

"They didn't realize how dedicated we are to stop them from using our land," Victor Oestmann said. Oestmann is a retired farmer whose land borders the site in Nemaha County. "That land and the other farms in that area have been in the same families for almost 100 years," he explained.

"Everybody is getting together today," said Linda Grove from the Nuckolls County group. She described the five-state compact set up by Congress in 1985 to deal with the problem of radioactive waste. "Most of the waste will come from the nuclear power plants owned by the big utilities. But it will also include other toxic and hazardous wastes like dioxin," she said.

"They claim if they put the dump here in Nuckolls the land values will go up. But we know that is not true," Grove continued. According to the US Ecology plan it will collect and

transport waste from the five Central States Compact area, which includes Nebraska, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. "But we believe the waste will come from other states as well," she concluded.

Farmers at the Nuckolls protest said US Ecology has told them one lie after another. It is a repeat of the claims made when nuclear power plants were first built, they pointed out. People were told then that nuclear energy would be clean and cheap, but nobody's utility bills ever went down. In addition, US Ecology will not be liable for any health problems associated with the dump, even though the waste can remain dangerous for hundreds of years.

## Prime farm land

Nora residents said the site chosen is prime farm land. A lot of farmers here have suffered hard times because of the drought and severe economic crisis, and US Ecology is willing to offer a pretty big price for the land.

The waste company is studying all three sites to determine which is the best candidate. Drilling rigs are already at work in the three counties. In Nuckolls the drillers hit an apparently level area of water only 40 feet from the surface. The Nora site adjoins the Ogallala High Plains Aquifer that serves seven states with ground water.

The farmers rely on this water for their crops and cattle fodder, which is then sent all over the country. So the potential health risks could be devastating.

US Ecology is spending thousands on public relations and advertising to convince the rural population there is nothing to worry about. "They are trying to buy us out with tax incentives and other handouts," said a farmer from Boyd County. But everyone knows there is plenty to be worried about. All four dumps operated by US Ecology have been closed — two permanently for leakage and two temporarily for mismanagement.

As part of the day's events the Concerned Citizens of Nuckolls County launched a petition effort that will support a class action suit aimed at reversing the 1985 congressional action that set up the compact system. Residents in these areas have no right to vote or voice a binding opinion on whether or not they want these dumps.

They have been organizing for months to stop the dumps, and the big majority is opposed to them. Nora's population is 32, but on the day of the protest well over 1,000 people were there.

One of the speakers at the rally was Carl McKenzie, a leader of the Sioux tribal council from South Dakota. "We have no trust in US Ecology after what has happened to the Sioux," he said. "We are held hostage just like you. Don't ever give up, we can't afford to let this happen to the future generations. We must be concerned with what they put in the ground," he told the crowd. They came to their feet as McKenzie pledged the support of the 37 tribes that comprise the Sioux Nation he represents.

# Nebraska rally hits radioactive waste dump

BY L. PALTRINERI

NORA, Neb. — The Concerned Citizens of Nuckolls County hosted a rally September 17 to protest plans by US Ecology, a private waste company, to site a new low-level radioactive waste dump here.

Buses and cars from Boyd and Nemaha counties, where other US Ecology sites have been chosen, as well as supporters and environmental activists from Omaha and Kansas streamed into the fields adjacent to the Farmers Co-op Union where the rally was held. Tractors and horse-drawn hay wagons ferried people from the makeshift parking lots to the rally site.

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# Strike supporters visit miners' camp

BY MARY IMO  
AND MAGGIE McCRAW

CARTERTON, Va. — "Come down to Camp Solidarity and show your support!" urged striking Pittston miner James Gibbs, after the recent occupation of the company's coal preparation plant near here.

Along with thousands of others, we came to support the 98 miners and one Methodist minister who had occupied Pittston's Moss No. 3 coal preparation plant on September 17 and stopped production for three days.

Some 1,900 members of the United Mine Workers of America have been on strike against Pittston Coal Group in southwestern Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

Camp Solidarity is a tent city set up by striking miners to house out-of-town visitors. The 10-acre grounds were donated by a miner. Surrounding the camp are family farms, coal mines, and railroads. There are few jobs outside of mining in this area and in the last decade, while the amount of coal mined doubled, the number of working miners has been cut in half.

Pittston's headquarters are in Lebanon and sit atop a well-groomed hill about 10 miles from the Moss No. 3 plant, which is in Carbo. As we arrived, we saw convoys of state police cars and prison buses along the road.

Houses and barns had signs supporting the Pittston miners. One merchant who has donated food to Camp Solidarity had a sign in front of his store reading, "We respectfully refuse to serve state troopers during the period of the UMWA strike."

## 'NYNEX to Camp Solidarity'

Outside the plant hundreds had gathered in support of the occupation. Striking telephone workers from New York hung a banner that read "NYNEX to Pittston/Camp Solidarity." A delegation of coal miners from southern Illinois had come and one said many had decided to use their vacations to stay longer than previously planned.

Fifty union electricians drove down from Indiana. Dave Dyson, an official from the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, presented the miners with \$12,000 collected from New York-area unions.

## Canada miners strike in West

BY CLIFF MACK  
AND PAUL KNOX

LOGAN LAKE, British Columbia — Since 1,400 copper miners walked off the job here nearly three months ago, the five entrances to Highland Valley mines have been the site of 24-hour picket lines.

Members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 7619 are fighting a management proposal for more freedom to contract out mine work. The company's owners announced their intention to lay off 100 workers in September even though it's been expanding production and making record profits in the recent period, partly as a result of high copper prices.

Strikers are also demanding a wage increase large enough to make up for the past six years when miners' wages increased by less than 1 percent per year, putting them several dollars per hour lower than other miners in the area. The starting wage for laborers at Highland is \$13 per hour and for skilled trades it's \$17.85. The company has offered annual wage increases ranging from 4 to 6 percent.

Management also proposes eliminating seniority rights, related to job postings and apprenticeships, as well as paid travel time on the job.

Steve Hunt, the union staff representative, reflected the sentiment of many pickets when he told company officials, "Your proposals have insulted our intelligence. This union has given concessions when they were necessary, and this time we are not stepping backward."

The initial 97 percent strike vote, in which 92 percent of the local participated, underlines pickets' determination. On strike since July 6, pickets are digging in their heels for a long fight. Recently they placed a Christmas tree at the main entrance to the mine.

Highland Valley, an open pit mine, is jointly owned by Cominco, Rio Algom, and

A delegation from the Aluminum, Brick, and Glass Workers, including their international president, had come to support the miners. They recently won a union-organizing drive in Tennessee. Striking miners from other areas and Eastern Airlines strikers joined the crowd.

## Occupation a success

Many of those who had come for the action stayed at Camp Solidarity. Banners and signs from visiting unionists hung in the camp, including a sign from a delegation of UMWA members from Decker, Montana. Most miners agreed the four-day takeover was a success.

"We showed them we can take their mines or prep plant at anytime," said Estes Brown, a member of UMWA Local 6207 at Meadow River Coal in West Virginia. "We have so much support from others that Pittston can't hold out forever." John Jones from the same local added that the unity and support of other unions is the way the UMWA will win the strike. "Big corporations own the judges," he said, "you really can see it in this battle — it's so obvious."

David Pugh, on strike against New Beckley Mining, believes there will be more actions called like the takeover. "We've opened the company's eyes that the union is still strong and we're holding together. Anything we've gotten so far we've had to fight for."

Pittston striker Terry Varney from Stone,



Militant/Steve Marshall  
Pickets outside Pittston's coal preparation plant. Plant has seen many strike activities, and thousands have visited nearby solidarity camp.

Kentucky, said, "Solidarity is the key word — this is a big factor in our strike and without it we can't win."

James Bandera, UMWA Local 1345 vice-president in southern Illinois, urged us to get the news out about what happened at Moss No. 3. "I had mixed emotions at first about them coming out when they did because we had production stopped. But I trust the lead-

ership of the union and they're leading this strike."

Pittston striker Gibbs put out a call for all supporters of the strike to "keep believing in us — we're going to win."

Unionists and others planning to visit Camp Solidarity should contact UMWA District 28, P.O. Box 28, Castlewood, Va. 24224, or call (703) 762-5537.

## 1,500 rally for Pittston coal miners

### Continued from front page

are proud of," he said. "Union is a word that striking Eastern Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots are proud of. That's why we are here today — to win this battle for the Pittston strikers."

John Hobis of the United Electrical Workers union spoke on behalf of UE strikers. He told the crowd the rally was a sign that "American workers are standing up in record

numbers to employers and the government, saying that we will not be pushed backwards." The crowd shouted, "We've had enough!"

### Employers' offensive

The main speaker at the rally was Richard Trumka, president of the UMWA. "While the vision of corporate America reigned in the '80s," said Trumka, "the '90s will be ours."

Trumka noted some statistics that indicate the impact of the employers' offensive against workers in this country over the past decade and spoke about the unity necessary to beat back these attacks.

"Today in 1989, 38 million Americans don't have health care," he said, and "34.5 million workers who work 40 hours a week live below the poverty level. Some 625,000 farmers were evicted from their land."

"In the '80s," he added, "the workweek increased by 15 percent and one out of 20 workers that tried to organize in the '80s was fired."

Trumka noted blows dealt against workers during the past decade, including setbacks in civil rights, reduced government funding for education, and increased desperation reflected in rising drug use.

### Divided we lose

The employers' offensive against workers, said Trumka, has included efforts to "separate us by geography, skin color, gender, and union, because only by keeping the labor movement divided can they win. But today proves that the labor movement will not be divided along those lines."

Cheers broke out as Trumka called on the labor movement to demand a national health-care bill, a shorter workweek, and changes in labor laws in the 1990s.

Chanting pro-union slogans the crowd moved out into the quiet streets of Greenwich and marched to Pittston's corporate offices. There wasn't much traffic in this small well-to-do town on Sunday afternoon but people stopped to watch and three young workers at the local movie theater cheered loudly as the crowd marched by.

### Unions must stand together

Dervin Lashley, an Eastern Airlines striker at La Guardia Airport and member of the International Association of Machinists, said that actions like this to unite the union movement are key to winning these battles. He contrasted it to his own union's experience with the courts and said, "Everything the

unions wanted in court was pushed down. We can only win if the unions stand together." Lashley expressed the hope that more actions take place in the future.

Steve Edgerly — financial secretary of United Auto Workers Local 376, which has been on strike against Colt Firearms in Hartford for more than three years — said that it was more important than ever for unions to support each other. "We just can't win alone," he concluded.

Efforts to deepen solidarity with the Pittston miners will continue in this area. A caravan from Maine to West Virginia is planned for October 15-19, and UMWA members will be available in this area to get out information on the strike.

## Oil workers union sets solidarity days with striking coal miners

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union has slated October 9-11 as three days of solidarity with striking Pittston coal miners during which OCAW members will travel to Virginia and take part in strike-support activities.

The OCAW has responded to the United Mine Workers of America's "Call to Conscience" that urges unions, religious, and civil rights groups to join the activities of the Pittston strikers, out since April 5. OCAW unionists will be staying at the strikers' tent city, called Camp Solidarity, and join them on their picket lines and rallies.

The solidarity actions come as a result of an August resolution adopted by the OCAW International Executive Board throwing the union's weight behind the Pittston fight.

In the September-October issue of the *OCAW Reporter*, the official publication of the union, President Joseph Misbrener said the Pittston strike "has become a focus of labor's strength to oppose the union-busting demands of corporations and their cozy allies in the federal and state governments."

"The miners as well as all working men and women in this country must win this struggle," said Misbrener.

The president's article says the October solidarity actions are the first of many to come and every effort helps, including financial contributions for the strikers. "A total effort by the OCAW can make the difference," said the union president.



Militant/Cliff Mack  
Copper miners, members of United Steelworkers of America, on strike in British Columbia.

Tek Corp. One of the largest copper mines in the world, it produces more than 1,000 metric tons of copper concentrate daily, which is shipped to smelters around the world.

The strikers are appealing for help from the rest of the labor movement. Western region District 3 of the Steelworkers' union has sent out an appeal to all locals in Western Canada to this effect.

USWA Local 480 at the Cominco smelter in Trail, British Columbia, has contributed \$15,000 and helped organize a solidarity picnic for the strikers and their families in mid-August. Some 1,800 people attended.

For more information or to send contributions contact: USWA Local 7619, Box 5, Logan Lake, BC, Canada V0K 1W. Phone (604) 523-9451.

# Foreign debt blocks Zambia's development

BY GREG McCARTAN

LUSAKA, Zambia — A series of economic measures instituted here by the government of President Kenneth Kaunda, aimed at winning renewed foreign loans and inflow of investment, has hit working people hard.

The loans dried up in 1987 following a unilateral reduction of payments by Zambia on its \$6.6 billion foreign debt.

A full 95 percent of the country's foreign export earnings were being used to service the debt. Following revolts against high food prices, Kaunda reduced payments to 10 percent of export earnings, after the foreign-exchange costs of the country's mines, national airline, fertilizer, and medicine were deducted.

In retaliation, imperialist governments and bankers slashed loan and aid programs. The U.S. government, for example, reduced its aid package from \$60 million in 1985 to \$17 million in 1988, \$10 million of which was in food aid. Loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) simply dried up.

The measures instituted recently include a 60 percent devaluation of Zambia's currency, the kwacha. The official exchange rate is K15 to U.S.\$1. The black market exchange rate is K50 to the dollar. One belt-tightening measure pushed by the IMF to qualify for new loans is for African countries to devalue the currencies to that of the black market. Many people here expect further devaluations soon.

## Price controls suspended

The government also suspended price controls on all but cornmeal, the principal staple food. Previously, 20 staple items were under government-controlled prices, which greatly reduced their cost to working people.

The government then increased the controlled price of the meal 60 percent — from \$4.67 to \$7.63 for a 50-pound bag.

These moves prompted the country's copper miners to strike for several days demanding pay raises to keep up with the price hikes. The miners returned to work following a promise by the union leadership to raise the issue with the government.

Copper accounts for 90 percent of export earnings. Copper prices took a nose dive in the mid-1970s causing an extreme shortage of foreign exchange. While copper prices have rebounded in the past year, a shortage of spare parts for mining machinery has cut into production.



Militant/Greg McCartan  
Zambian market worker selling fish

## Zimbabwe's Grassroots: outlet for progressive literature

HARARE, Zimbabwe — At 8:15 in the morning customers are lining up outside of Grassroots Books. The store opens at 8:30 and does a brisk business until closing at 5:30.

"The books we carry are the type of books that were banned before independence in 1980," store manager Paul Brickhill said.

Grassroots is the only outlet for these

## Israeli regime to expand Palestinian prison camp in desert

The Israeli regime is expanding its notorious prison camp in the Negev desert to make room for 1,200 more Palestinian prisoners.

Meanwhile, camp inmates appealed to Israeli and world opinion "for the immediate closure" of the camp.

The inhuman conditions at the Ketziot camp have been condemned from the outset, with groups like Amnesty International scorning it as trampling on human rights.

Currently, there are a reported 4,400 prisoners in the camp, a majority of them held without charges.

Prisoners are crammed into tents surrounded by multiple barbed wire fences.

The desert heat regularly goes beyond 100 degrees Fahrenheit. There is a shocking absence of proper food, sanitation facilities, and medical care.

In their appeal, published September 1, the prisoners liken the facility to the concentration camps of Europe in World War II.

Recalling two confrontations in which guards injured and killed several prisoners, the letter said that the prisoners are being subjected to merciless pressure and that this is now reaching unprecedented levels. They warn that if it continues, the previous confrontations "will look like minor outbreaks compared to the total outbreak we will all witness."

They point to the lack of toilet and shower facilities, lack of medication, deprivation of reading materials and radios, and the denial of adequate food and water.

They declare they want food "separated from politics, as food is a legal right to all living beings."

books in Zimbabwe, he said. A similar bookstore in Capetown, South Africa, was bombed six months ago and has not reopened. A progressive bookshop in Swaziland opened recently, but besides that, Grassroots is the only progressive bookstore in the whole region, he added.

The store hosts a range of titles by working-class, revolutionary, and communist leaders as well as political histories of struggles for national liberation. It also retails and wholesales educational textbooks and school supplies.

Begun as a three-person "very small bookshop" in 1981, the operation has grown to 14 people with retail, wholesale, import, export, and marketing departments. A branch outlet was opened in the southwestern city of Bulawayo in 1984.

"The original idea came before we won independence," Brickhill explained. "We saw one of the biggest problems in the country was the lack of availability of progressive literature. Hardly a progressive book could be found in the country before 1980.

"We also do everything possible to promote books produced in Zimbabwe. Britain and South Africa are the two main suppliers of books here. We go out of our way to break these colonial links."

Books on apartheid "are the most important thing for us," Brickhill explained. Anti-apartheid posters and books are prominent in the store.

A plot to bomb the store was uncovered last year with the arrest of an eight-person South African-organized terrorist squad. Seven of the eight have been convicted for a series of bombings in the country. Grassroots had been one of their next targets prior to the arrests.

Not deterred by these threats, Grassroots plans to open two new stores in the towns of Mutare and Chiredzi.

A special project of Grassroots is to market Pathfinder's *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. "We plan to get it out to ordinary people, especially in the rural areas," he said.

"Everything they will read in that book they will understand, because everything Sankara said applies to Zimbabwe. It is one of the most important books of the '80s for Africa."

Another example of shortage of foreign exchange is the lack of spare parts for the nation's buses, which are imported. In the public bus sector there were 445 buses in 1980, carrying 60 million passengers. By 1988 only 182 buses were running, and passenger load fell to 19 million.

Working people here have paid a high price for taking a stand against the debt payments.

While among the most urbanized countries in Africa, with 50 percent of the population living in cities, only 350,000 people, excluding agriculture, are currently employed. Of a total population of 6.5 million, 2 million youths are unemployed.

According to the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions, workers have lost two-thirds of their purchasing power since 1975. Wages average \$50 a month, and inflation is running at 60 percent annually.

Despite these pressures, the government is still taking steps to cut economic links with apartheid South Africa.

Zambia, one of the Frontline States, is committed to breaking ties to the apartheid regime and encourages total sanctions against South Africa. Zambia is also the host country to the national offices of the African National Congress.

While still dependent in many ways on imports from South Africa, the Zambian government is working with other Frontline States to encourage mutual trade, and to develop joint economic projects.

Zambia has stopped all copper exports to South Africa, and is working with neighboring Zimbabwe on developing mining equipment that is otherwise only available in the region from South Africa.



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

GREG McCARTAN

With this issue the *Militant* begins a new column, "Pathfinder, Around the World."

The Pathfinder publishing house, located in New York with distributors in New Zealand, Britain, Australia, and Canada publishes the works of revolutionaries and communists who have made central contributions to the forward march of working people against exploitation and oppression.

Pathfinder bookstores are located in 42 cities in seven countries. The addresses of the bookstores are listed on page 12.

The column will keep the supporters and readers of Pathfinder up to date on its expanding publishing program, sales, and international activities.

In order to get accurate, current, and worldwide coverage, we ask Pathfinder bookstores and supporters to send items of interest to the *Militant* — special promotional events, sales at festivals, book reviews that appear in local newspapers, and other such items.

\* \* \*

Two consecutive months of record sales have pushed total sales of Pathfinder for the first nine months of 1989 to 9 percent above sales for the whole of 1988.

Record sales of \$68,000 during July were topped by \$73,000 during August. The increase has been seen in nearly every category, including Pathfinder bookstores, international distribution, and retail and campus bookstores.

These sales figures reflect a growing interest in the ideas of Cuban revolutionary leaders Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara; Thomas Sankara, former head of the revolutionary government in Burkina Faso; leaders of the Communist International during V.I. Lenin's time; and Malcolm X. Pathfinder's recently published *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches* is the fastest selling title.

Although these sales show increased receptivity to many Pathfinder books, they have not happened automatically. They've required work. Pathfinder sales representatives have fanned out across the United States, Australia, Canada, Britain, and other countries to introduce the range of titles to bookstores and distributors.

Like many members of the Pathfinder editorial and business staffs who hit the road to do promotional work several weeks each year, Robert Dees spent two weeks in July crisscrossing Ohio selling books.

"We go to the major bookstores in every city, and also university bookstores. We want to get our books where working people go," Dees explained.

He was struck by the broad selection bought by the stores. During the trip he sold 71 different titles "covering almost the full range of our catalog."

### Guevara, Castro speeches popular

Store managers were interested in books "that address issues people are discussing today. Books of Che Guevara's and Fidel Castro's speeches were popular for that reason," said Dees. More than 100 other books on Marxism were also sold during the trip, including 14 copies of the *History of the Russian Revolution* by Leon Trotsky, one of the central leaders of the October 1917 Russian revolution and of the Communist International in its early years.

Another title by Trotsky that is selling at a faster clip this year is *The Revolution Betrayed: What Is the Soviet Union and Where Is It Going?* Trotsky wrote the book in the 1930s after being deported from the Soviet Union by the bureaucratic regime headed by Joseph Stalin.

Dees, like the other sales representatives, spends most of his time editing, translating, or working on promotional material for Pathfinder's books. As a member of the editorial staff he researches material for the publishing house's series of books on the Communist International under Lenin.

Before returning from a vacation in Europe recently, Dees did a six-day sales trip in Germany. Seventy-two titles were sold, totaling 222 books and 54 pamphlets.

### Goal of \$200,000 increase

"Our goal for 1989 had been to increase sales by \$100,000 over 1988," reported Norton Sandler, Pathfinder sales manager. "We think we'll reach that goal by the end of October and we are now shooting for a \$200,000 increase this year," he said.

These trips also help improve the publishing end of the business. "We get a better idea of what people are interested in, how to present our books, and how we can improve our design and presentation," noted Dees.

Sales representatives also take time out to talk with managers of chain bookstores in each city. While these stores do not order directly from Pathfinder, they do encourage their main office to send Pathfinder titles as a result of the visits.

During the summer months 3,231 books and 375 pamphlets were sold by the editorial and promotional staffs. This translates into some \$15,500 in direct sales at wholesale prices.

### Chain store sales

Because of this effort, sales to chain stores have increased 700 percent over 1988. Waldenbooks, a major retail chain in the United States, recently ordered 1,600 copies of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*. Sales of the book have been brisk at B. Dalton's store in Greenwich Village in New York City. Some 1,100 copies of the book have been shipped to the store since early July.

To date, nearly 16,000 copies of the book have been distributed. Sales of the new book have spurred interest in other titles by Malcolm X including *By Any Means Necessary*, *Malcolm X on Afro-American History*, and *The Last Year of Malcolm X*, by George Breitman.

A second printing of the book is planned in October before the first run of 25,000 is exhausted.

## ALABAMA

### Birmingham

**Bush's Drug Proposal: More Cops and Prisons.** Speaker: David Alvarez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council, District 8, member United Steelworkers of America Local 9226. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**An Answer to Bush's "War on Drugs".** Speakers: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

**Guatemalan Human Rights Tribunal.** Public hearing at City Hall on the "disappeared," victims of political violence. Speakers: representatives of Guatemalan trade union, peasant, and human rights groups. Sat., Oct. 7, 9:30 a.m. 200 N Spring St., Public Works Hearing Room 350. For more information call (213) 651-1965.

### Oakland

**Celebrate the Publication of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*.** Speakers: Froben Lozada, Chicano studies teacher; Dr. Cecilia Arrington, chairperson Ethnic Studies Dept., Merritt College; Caryl McCord, director of *The Meeting* production of Oakland Ensemble Theater; David Hilliard, former chief of staff Black Panther Party; Alfred Pico, artist, member United Steelworkers of America Local 1440; Piri Thomas, poet, author; representatives of African National Congress and Pathfinder Press. Sun., Oct. 22. Reception (food and refreshments) 4 p.m.; program 5 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$5, program only \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

### San Francisco

**March to Protect Women's Rights, Save Women's Lives.** Sun., Oct. 15. Assemble 11 a.m. Justin Herman Plaza (Market and Embarcadero). Noon march to Civic Center. Rally 1:30 p.m. Sponsor: Bay Area Pro-Choice Coalition. For more information call (415) 861-8880.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**How to Advance the Fight for Women's Equality.** A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

**Is Biology Women's Destiny?** Class and discussion. Suggested reading: *Problems of Women's Liberation*, by Evelyn Reed. Sun., Oct. 1, 2 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**Eastern Strikers Speak Out.** Hear Michael Drake, chief steward and legislative representative of International Association of Machinists Lodge 1690 (Hartsfield Airport); Ernie Mailhot, strike committee IAM Lodge 1018 (La Guardia Airport). Sat., Sept. 30. Dinner 6 p.m.; forum 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: dinner \$3; forum \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**U.S. and World Politics Today: Greater Opportunities for Working-Class Fighters.** Speaker: Mac Warren, National Committee So-

cialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

## IOWA

### Des Moines

**The "War on Drugs": Pretext for War Moves Abroad and Repression at Home.** Speaker: Sara Lobman, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

**The Fight Against Antilabor Disruption: Victory in the Gelfand Case.** A panel discussion with representative of Mark Curtis Defense Committee, others. Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**From Virginia Beach to Bensonhurst: How to Stop Racist Attacks.** Speakers: Rodney Orange, chairperson Political Action Committee of Baltimore NAACP; Reba Williams Dixon, Socialist Workers Party; students present at Greekfest in Virginia Beach. Sat., Sept. 30. Dinner 6 p.m.; forum 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: dinner \$3; forum \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

## MINNESOTA

### Austin

**Cuba Defends Socialism and Confronts Drugs and Corruption: Lessons of the Ochoa Affair.** Speaker: Phil Norris, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-6. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 1, 7 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**Rally for Justice! Free Mark Curtis!** Speakers: Kate Kaku, member steering committee of Mark Curtis Defense Committee and wife of Mark Curtis; Gloria Hoover, member St. Louis National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, fighting a police brutality case against her family; Tom Curl, Illinois farmer and Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in 1988; Rev. Ted Schroder, minister of Immanuel Lutheran Church; Ann Riley-Owens, co-chair of Equal Rights Committee of United Mine Workers of America Local 2295; others. Sat., Sept. 30., Reception 6 p.m.; rally 7 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3540 Marcus. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: St. Louis Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (618) 452-0089.

## NEBRASKA

### Omaha

**Cuba and Angola: Response to the South African Escalation.** A video. Sat., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

## NEW JERSEY

### Newark

**Eyewitness Report from Southern Africa.** Speaker: James Harris, Pathfinder representative at Zimbabwe bookfair. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (973) 642-1000.

**LOUISIANA: New Orleans:** P.O. Box 53224. Zip: 70153. Tel: (504) 484-6418.

**MARYLAND: Baltimore:** 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**MASSACHUSETTS: Boston:** 605 Massachusetts Ave. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

**MICHIGAN: Detroit:** 5019½ Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

**MINNESOTA: Austin:** 407½ N. Main. Zip: 55912. Tel: (507) 433-3461. **Twin Cities:** 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

**MISSOURI: Kansas City:** 5534 Troost Ave. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 444-7880. **St. Louis:** 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

**NEBRASKA: Omaha:** 140 S. 40th St. Zip: 68131. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

**NEW JERSEY: Newark:** 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

**NEW YORK: Brooklyn:** 464 Bergen St. Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 398-6983. **New York:** 191 7th Ave. Zip: 10011. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

**NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro:** 2219 E Market. Zip 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**OHIO: Cleveland:** 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** P.O. Box 20297. Zip: 43202.

tion call (201) 643-3341.

### The Fight for Puerto Rican Independence.

Speakers: Selva Nebbia, *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* staff writer; Mildred Colón, coordinator New York Puerto Rican Socialist Party. Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### Socialist Workers Party Campaign Rally.

Speaker: Cathy Sedwick, SWP candidate for governor of New Jersey. Sat., Oct. 14. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$5 (reception and program). Sponsor: Socialist Workers 1989 Campaign. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**Cuba and Angola.** Video showing of Cuban documentary "Response to the South African Escalation." Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

### Manhattan

**Government War on Drugs Masks Worldwide Attack on Working People.** Speaker: Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council, 6th District. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

### Cuba and Angola: Response to the South African Escalation.

Video showing of Cuban documentary in three parts followed by presentations and discussion. Part II and "Cuba's International Role." Mon., Oct. 2, 7 p.m.. Part III and "The Fight Against Racism and for Women's Liberation." Mon., Oct. 9, 7 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**Pittston Coal Strike: Eyewitness Report.** Speaker: Yvonne Hayes, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 1391. Sun., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Pittsburgh

**An Open House and Video Presentation on the Pathfinder Mural.** Speaker: Sam Manuel, mural project director. Sat., Sept. 30, 4:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

## UTAH

### Salt Lake City

**Pittston Miners' Strike.** Report on recent developments and showing of video "They'll Never Keep Us Down." Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

## WASHINGTON

### Granger

**Report on the Pathfinder Mural.** Slideshow and discussion with Mark Severs, mural fund coordinator. A bilingual program in English and Spanish. Sun., Oct. 1, 4 p.m. Yellow hall behind Radio KDNA.

### Seattle

**An Evening to Support Pathfinder Mural.** Slideshow and discussion with Mark Severs,

mural fund coordinator; Elisabeth Linder, mother of Ben Linder; others. Sat., Sept. 30, 8 p.m. AFLN Gallery, 1624 E Madison. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

**Bush's "War on Drugs": Attack on Working People at Home and Abroad.** Speaker: Jeff Ford, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**The Defiance Campaign: Moving the Struggle Forward.** Keynote speaker: Lindiwe Mabuza, chief representative to the U.S. of the African National Congress of South Africa. Panel discussion on building anti-apartheid movement in the U.S. with speakers from Trans-Africa, Southern Africa Support Project, Washington Office on Africa, and South African Women's Day Committee. Sat., Sept. 30, 6 to 9 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church, 16th and Gallatin NW. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: South African Women's Day Committee. For more information call (202) 234-3447.

**Speak Out Against Racist Attacks!** Panel discussion on Virginia Beach, Bensonhurst, Prince Georges County. Sun., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

## WISCONSIN

### Milwaukee

**The Defiance Campaign in South Africa.** Speakers: Mark Quigley and Stephen Simons, members of Must Act at Marquette University; Melissa Heinz, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

**Bush's "War on Drugs" — Proposals: More Cops, More Prisons.** Speaker: Bill Scherr, chairperson Milwaukee Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct., 7, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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## CANADA

### Toronto

**The Phony War on Drugs: Repression at Home, Intervention Abroad.** Speakers: Lennox Farrell, Rally Against Apartheid; Terry Stevenson, Young Socialists. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

**Anti-apartheid Defiance Spreads in South Africa.** Speaker: representative of African National Congress. Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

**Don't Lose the Right to Choose.** Day of action for abortion rights. Queen's Park. Sat., Oct. 14, noon. Followed by Young Socialists open house with presentation on women and the Cuban revolution. Pathfinder Bookstore, 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Auckland

**Behind the Crisis in Bougainville.** Speaker: David Robie, freelance journalist recently returned from Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea. Sat., Oct. 7, 7 p.m. 157 Symonds St. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. For more information call (9) 793-075.

## BRITAIN

**London:** 47 The Cut, SE1 8LL. Tel: 01-401 2293.

## CANADA

**Montréal:** 6566 boul. St-Laurent, H2S 3C6. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

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**Sharing the burden** — The Canadian government is readying a General Sales Tax that, according to reports, would impose a 9 percent



Harry Ring

tax on a pint of milk, while exempting such essentials as a \$760 can of caviar.

**Sounds like a nominating speech** — Allister Sparks, *Washington Post* reporter in Namibia,

worries that SWAPO's Sam Nujoma may not be qualified to lead a free Namibia. He is "one of Africa's great political survivors," Sparks concedes, "but he is poorly educated, unsophisticated in Western terms, and, in the words of an international businessman . . . 'just not a modern man of the world.'"

**Convenient to theaters, shopping** — A Japanese firm is looking for \$14 billion to build a 64-room hotel accommodating 100 guests. A two-night stay, \$180,000. It would be a space station, orbiting 270 miles from planet Earth.

**A home away from home** — Another Japanese company is projecting Sky City, a 300-story pyra-

mid that would employ and house 130,000 workers.

**They're into aliases** — Years back, the name Standard Oil symbolized big-business greed. That played a role in the name change to Exxon. Now, it's reported, they're considering a new name for the tanker *Exxon Valdez*.

**Can't be done during lunch break?** — Scurrying up the ladder of success, some Type A execs tend to bolt down low-fiber junk food, leading to what one doctor calls YETSS — Young Executive Tight Sphincter Syndrome. But, he assures, a quick snip of the sphincter muscle and the harried young aspirant is back at his desk in the a.m.

**Group therapy** — What with the YETSS problem, some companies now feature a weekly "stress down" day when the ladder-climbers doff their three-piece suits for jeans and sweatshirts.

**Just dial YETSS** — A ski club in New York's Catskills offers business folk a beeper service, so their offices can keep in touch while they're on the slope.

**How wonderful** — A bubbly *New York Times* Sunday magazine article advises that in Beverly Hills you can pay \$7.5 million for a home. That includes His and Hers bathrooms. Hers has a wood-burning fireplace. His features a urinal. We

assume that's for when the butler isn't around to lift the toilet seat.

**Nothing's perfect** — Scientists have inserted growth hormone genes into pigs so they grow faster and leaner, but they say the technique needs to be "refined." The first of the engineered pigs were mostly sterile, suffered from arthritis and gastric ulcers, and were stress-prone.

**Maybe it will just seem that way** — The world's largest shopping mall is being readied in Bloomington, Minnesota. "You won't be able to go to this mall just to buy a shirt," enthused the planning director. "Coming here will be a two- or three-day event."

## National march Nov. 12 to defend abortion rights

### Continued from front page

decision of the Supreme Court in the Webster case handed down on July 3," Yard pointed out, "is that hundreds and hundreds of people are calling our chapters all over the country asking how they can get involved in the fight to preserve the right of women to choose when and whether to have children."

Yard noted that the Supreme Court's July 3 decision stirred protest actions across the country when it upheld a Missouri law that, among other restrictions, bars performing abortions in public hospitals or state-funded facilities unless necessary to save a woman's life.

Since the July 3 ruling many state legislatures have begun to use the decision to attempt to restrict the right to abortion.

In Florida, for example, Gov. Robert Martinez has called a special legislative session on abortion for October 10 to consider his antiabortion proposals, which are modeled after the Missouri law upheld by the Supreme Court. Despite the widespread pro-choice sentiment in Florida, he has refused to back down. According to a recent poll, 70 percent are in disagreement with the governor's plan to restrict abortion.

On September 17 more than 5,000 supporters of the right to choose rallied near Fort Lauderdale with the message: "We will accept no compromise on the right to abortion!"

The mobilization was called by the Florida NOW chapter and supported by more than 60 organizations. Among the endorsers was the Florida AFL-CIO.

NOW National Vice-president Patricia Ireland and other speakers at the rally urged participation in prochoice activities planned for Tallahassee on October 10, the first day of the special Florida legislative session, and in the November 12 national mobilization.

On September 13 a candlelight vigil was held in Pittsburgh to protest a firebomb attack

at the Allegheny Reproductive Health Center, an abortion clinic.

The attack occurred September 6 at 4:30 a.m. It damaged the clinic's doorway, awning, and stairs.

Although the vigil was announced with only two days' notice, a large group of people turned out to express their outrage at the attack against women seeking abortions.

In Houston more than 3,000 participated in a prochoice demonstration August 26. Hundreds of high school and college-age women attended the rally. Many said it was the first political event they had ever attended.

A contingent of striking flight attendants from Eastern Airlines came to the rally to offer support and distribute literature on the strike.

Upcoming actions for a woman's right to

choose and to build the November 12 demonstration include an October 15 prochoice march and rally in San Francisco and an October 29 "March for Choice" in Columbus, Ohio.

Referring to the November 12 national action, Yard stated, "We will be inviting many dignitaries, public officials, and celebrities to be part of the mobilization."

"But the real heroes of the mobilization," added Yard, "will be the women, men, and children from every walk of life and every part of the country who will add their voices to the call for safe, legal, and funded abortion and birth control."

NEW YORK — Prochoice forces won a victory in New York on September 20 when a federal appeals court upheld an injunction

barring antiabortion protesters from blocking access to abortion clinics. The plaintiffs were NOW, Planned Parenthood, the National Abortion Rights Action League, and various abortion clinics in the metropolitan area. Operation Rescue was also ordered by the court to pay \$50,000 in fines.

David Cole, a lawyer with the Center for Constitutional Rights who argued for the plaintiffs before the appeals court, said the ruling held that the civil rights of women were violated by such protests.

"It's a very important principle for people trying to protect women's rights to abortion," said Cole.

*Katy Karlin from Houston, Nancy Cole from Miami, and Traci Castro from Pittsburgh contributed to this article.*

## Australia protests hit proposed abortion cuts

BY LINDA SCOTT

SYDNEY, Australia — Women here have begun to organize against the attacks on their right to choose abortion, which have been increasing in Australia over recent months.

More than 300 people turned out here at a public meeting to protest a bill introduced in Parliament last month that would ban payments from the federally funded health-care system for most abortions. The Medicare payments would require a certificate explaining that a serious condition made the abortion necessary.

Expressing outrage at the U.S. Supreme Court decision to uphold state laws restricting abortion rights, the meeting called for the repeal of all antiabortion laws in Australia and for women's right to choose. Participants launched a national coalition of prochoice

groups to coordinate actions and organize broad layers of women in a campaign to oppose the attacks on abortion.

These attacks include pickets of antichoice demonstrators who block access to clinics where abortions are performed — recently at Lane Cove in Sydney. Forces opposed to women's right to choose say they will escalate such actions along the lines of similar campaigns in the United States.

Comparing the bill to the 1976 Hyde Amendment in the United States, speakers at the meeting noted that its effects would be felt most keenly by working-class women and young women. The U.S. law barred the use of federal Medicaid payments to finance abortions except where the woman's life was in danger, or where the pregnancy resulted

from rape or incest.

Access to abortion is uneven in Australia, with the six state governments having different restrictive laws. In South Australia, the only state where abortion is legal, facilities are being cut back and many women are being forced to travel interstate.

In Queensland abortion is illegal except in cases where the woman's physical or mental health is threatened. But a victory for prochoice fighters was won there in July when a 22-year-old woman won a Federal Family Court battle. The court refused an application by her former husband for an injunction to restrain her from having an abortion. The husband's claim to protect the "rights of the unborn child" were rejected because the court did not recognize the existence of such rights.

### U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685).

1A. Title of Publication: The Militant.

1B. Publication No. 349040.

2. Date of filing: September 21, 1989.

3. Frequency of issue: Weekly except one week in August and the last week in December. A. No. of issues published annually: 50. B. Annual subscription price: \$30.00.

4. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

5. Complete mailing address of the headquarters or general business offices of the publisher: 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

6. Full names and complete mailing addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor. Publisher: The Militant, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Editor: Doug Jenness, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Managing editor: none.

7. Owner (if owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.): 408 Printing & Publishing Corp., 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Jack Barnes, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. G. Craig Gannon, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Reba Hansen, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Mary-Alice Waters, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. 406 West Street Realty, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amounts of bonds, mortgages or other securities

(if there are none, so state): Anchor Foundation, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Jack Barnes, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. G. Craig Gannon, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Larry Seigle, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Mary-Alice Waters, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

9. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates (Section 423.12 DMM only): Does not apply.

10. Extent and nature of circulation. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months. A. Total no. copies printed (net press run): 12,587. B. Paid circulation (1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales: 4,114. (2) Mail subscriptions: 5,926. C. Total paid circulation (sum of 10B1 and 10B2): 10,040. D. Free distribution by mail, carrier, or other means, samples, complimentary, and other free copies: 553. E. Total distribution (sum of C and D): 10,593. F. Copies not distributed (1) Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: 1,974. (2) Returns from news agents: 20. G. Total (sum of E, F1 and 2 should equal net press run shown in A): 12,587.

Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date. A. Total no. copies printed (net press run): 10,600. B. Paid circulation (1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales: 5,110. (2) Mail subscriptions: 3,301. C. Total paid circulation (sum of 10B1 and 10B2): 8,411. D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means, samples, complimentary and other free copies: 592. E. Total distribution (sum of C and D): 9,003. F. Copies not distributed (1) Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: 1,587. G. Total (sum of E, F1 and 2 — should equal net press run shown in A): 10,600.

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed)  
James White  
Business Manager

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Immediately after the Somoza regime was overthrown, the Sandinista National Liberation Front enjoyed such overwhelming support among the masses that no other political force in the country dared to challenge it openly.

Even the FSLN's opponents tried to present themselves "Sandinistas," while they looked for openings to press their own policies.

Now, with the revolution more than two months old, and allegiance to the FSLN among the workers and peasants as strong as ever, groups opposed to the Sandinistas have begun to organize and express themselves.

The opposition is taking two forms: pro-capitalist forces seeking to hold back the radical social transformations that are under way; and petty-bourgeois ultraleft groups that are growing impatient with the pace the FSLN is setting.

While the proposals promoted by these two currents are quite different, they share the immediate aim of undermining mass support for the Sandinista Front. Each in its own way seeks to blame the FSLN — not the destructive legacy of Somoza, not the refusal of the imperialist countries to provide aid — for the objective problems the country faces.

A wave of more than 100 arrests of Negroes in McComb, Mississippi last week, followed a police frame-up of voter-registration workers who have been active in McComb since June 22. McComb cops made the ridiculous assertion that the civil rights workers had bombed the home of Ardis Garner, a Negro who had been fired after one month's work on the McComb police force.

Garner, who was the first and only Negro to serve on the McComb force, was obviously fired because of his plans to testify before a federal Civil Rights Advisory Commission in Jackson. His home was the scene of the 16th racist bombing in McComb since the beginning of the summer in which four persons, including two children, have been injured.

Many of the civil rights workers were arrested under a Mississippi law passed last May making illegal any attempt to bring about political or social change — in other words, outlawing any civil rights work. Violators of the law are termed "criminal syndicalists."

### — 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

#### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Oct. 5, 1979

#### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Oct. 5, 1964

October 6, 1989 The Militant 13

# Eastern strike, miners' fight

Continued from front page

Virginia, rally.

Since then, Eastern and Pittston strikers have walked each others' picket lines, joined each others' strike support rallies, spoken at each others' union meetings, and united to back up other workers who have gone out on strike.

The largest and most visible expression of the miners' resistance so far — the six-week walkout in June and July by 44,000 UMWA members backing the Pittston strikers — greatly heartened the Eastern strikers.

In recent weeks, the Machinists and miners' fights have become more interlinked, as Eastern's drive to break the Machinists' strike has failed and resistance in the coal fields has deepened.

These struggles are reinforcing and strengthening each other. The common defiance of the Eastern and coal strikers in turn puts its stamp on other fights that break out — from the strike by Boise Cascade workers in northern Minnesota to the fight by hospital workers in New York City. These unionists come into struggle in a stronger position, and with more solidarity, because — after months of battle — the Eastern and coal strikers are still fighting.

In 1985 meat-packers in the Midwest began a series of strike battles and organizing drives that marked the beginning of new resistance by workers to the employers' anti-labor offensive, after a long period during which the labor movement had suffered a virtual rout.

But that stage of the meat-packers' fight was defeated and over before the next major labor battle could open up and provide needed reinforcements.

The next big battle broke out in 1987, when paper-workers at International Paper mills in Maine, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, refused to accept union-weakening concessions and went on strike. Workers locked out at a fourth mill in Alabama were also part of the fight.

After fighting for more than a year, the paper-workers' strikes ended in the fall of 1988 — five months before the Eastern strike opened up.

The situation today is different. The Eastern strike — though battered — remains solid. At the same time, the strikes and broader resistance by thousands of coal miners has opened up a new front, strengthening both unions' battles.

Eastern strikers and coal miners also know how different their current struggles are from two strikes that occurred in the darkest period of labor's retreat.

In 1983 Texas Air Corp. head Frank Lorenzo was able to smash the Machinists', flight attendants', and pilots' unions at Continental, Eastern's sister airline, in a union-busting drive that was defeated without serious organized opposition from other airline unionists and the rest of the labor movement. Two years later, the Massey Coal Co. dealt the UMWA a serious blow in a strike that also remained largely isolated from the rest of the mine union and broader labor movement.

The strikes at Pittston and Eastern have unfolded in a sharply different way.

## Eastern strike not broken

Lorenzo had hoped that the start-up of more flights August 1 and the return to work by hundreds of pilots and flight attendants the first week of August would break the Machinists' morale and shatter the strike at Eastern.

That's not what happened. Although the strike was weakened by these developments, the response of many strikers was to look for ways to continue fighting. The strike as a whole got a second wind.

The layer of strike activists and leaders who look to the mobilization of union power to win the strike pressed ahead.

Striking locals organized rallies, pickets, and other actions to protest the new flights in August. Some 6,000 unionists demonstrated in Pittsburgh August 13 to back the Pittston miners, Eastern workers, and telephone strikers. A week later United Mine Workers members struck three more West Virginia coal operators. Rallies of thousands of miners and supporters in Virginia that month also lent support to the Eastern fight.

In mid-August caravans of striking Eastern Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots took off from Miami, visiting dozens of cities from Florida to Massachusetts. In many places, they were joined by Pittston miners and telephone strikers.

The caravans arrived at the UMWA's Camp Solidarity in southwest Virginia by late August, and more Eastern strikers were able to meet with striking Pittston miners and other unionists. Meanwhile, Eastern strikers and Pittston miners were mapping plans to put their stamp on Labor Day

marches and other events.

The September 7 start-up of more flights by Eastern was met by further protests in major East Coast strike centers, as well as in smaller stations.

In many cities, Eastern strikers have revived and reorganized speakers bureaus and outreach committees. Strike activists are discussing how to strengthen picket lines, reach out for more active support from the labor movement, and mobilize in further actions.

At the same time, reports of financial difficulties at Texas Air, the parent company of Eastern and Continental, have reinforced strikers' confidence that their fight is dealing blows.

They have also been inspired by the miners' 80-hour occupation of Pittston's Moss No. 3 coal preparation plant in Carbo, Virginia, which began September 17. Eastern strikers were among the thousands of unionists who gathered outside the plant to support the miners.

•

The recent upswing in activity and morale in the Eastern strike — reinforced by the miners' fight — puts the International Association of Machinists in a stronger position to meet the big challenges it faces heading into the eighth month on the picket line.

## Miners' example for Machinists

The broad mobilization by the miners to back up the Pittston strikers is an example for the IAM. All miners — no matter what company they work for or what part of the country they live in — view themselves as part of the fight at Pittston. Thousands of miners have demonstrated, sat-in, been arrested, and even gone on strike, to back the UMWA's battle with Pittston.

In October Lorenzo will try to boost the number of daily flights from 600 to 700. The company's goal for the "new" nonunion Eastern is 800 daily flights by the end of the year.

The protests organized by strikers in July, August, and September showed that such actions can have an impact. Much more is required now — the Machinists' union as a whole, along with the rest of the labor movement, needs to throw its weight behind the strikers' efforts to mount the picket lines, rallies, and other protests

needed to empty these planes.

The September 16 rally of 11,000 in St. Paul, Minnesota, to back the construction strikers at Boise Cascade points toward the kind of labor mobilization that is needed around the country to back up the Eastern strikers.

Eastern strikers are also grappling with issues central to strengthening the entire union. This is an added reason why every IAM member should see the Eastern fight as their own.

The first issue is how to stop IAM-organized subcontractors from doing work at Eastern — work essential to getting and keeping the new flights in the air. The use of IAM-organized companies like Hudson General, Ogden Allied, Marriott, and others to do catering, ramp and cleaning work, and fueling for Eastern is undermining the strike from within the union itself. In New York, Miami, and other cities, strikers are trying to talk to Hudson General and other subcontract workers and win their support for the strike. At the same time, they are pressing union officials to back up subcontract workers and locals who want to end this strike-breaking practice.

In addition, the recent sale of nine of Eastern's Philadelphia gates, along with planes and routes, to nonunion Midway Airlines poses an added challenge for Eastern strikers in that city and in the strike as a whole.

The fight in Philadelphia is the same as it has been since March 4 — to keep the operations shut down until an acceptable union contract is won for workers there — regardless of which company owns the gates. The union movement in Philadelphia needs to support the Eastern strikers' efforts to prevent Midway's scab operations from opening. Initial contacts with Midway workers indicate that many of them would support such a campaign.

To meet the challenges facing the strike at this stage, the broadest possible involvement of the membership is needed in every aspect of strike activity. This points to the need for meetings that can involve all the strikers, to discuss out and organize the next steps in the struggle. In this way the power of the entire union membership and the broader ranks of labor can be brought to bear in the fight to defeat Lorenzo.

The Eastern strikers' combativity and renewed capacity to deal blows to the company continue to inspire working people and surprise the capitalist rulers, whose predictions of the strike's demise have proved wrong at every stage of the fight.

# Hurricanes, recessions, and forecasters

BY DOUG JENNESS

As Hurricane Hugo swept across the Caribbean meteorologists followed its course closely, attempting to forecast which islands it would hit and where it would plunge into the East Coast of the United States. Despite their scrutiny, they made misjudgments, both about Hugo's most likely course and its expected velocity when it struck land.

Most people in the region, however, have learned from experience that when a hurricane is headed in their general direction, it's best to hunker down or evacuate and not take a chance on forecasts that say it may not hit their area or will only make a soft landing.

Even though they often err in the details, probably unavoidably, when everything is said and done, the weather forecasters don't do too bad in predicting the

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

general direction, speed, and power of hurricanes. This gives hundreds of thousands of people enough time to get out of harm's way, which is reflected in the considerably lower death rates compared to a few decades ago.

Moreover, they do better than another breed of forecaster — the "experts" who keep their eyes peeled on the signs in capitalist society that might show whether or not an economic storm in the shape of a recession is around the corner. Every rise and dip in employment, production, inventories, prices, interest rates, and many other benchmarks are closely examined.

Sweeping generalizations are often drawn from the smallest shifts about the prospects for a recession. One month many of these "experts" conclude that a recession is on its way and then turn on a dime and the following month say it's a long way off. Thinking workers have long ago learned to take "scientific" observation of this type with a grain of salt.

We can't name the month or gauge the severity of the next recession, and it's a waste of time trying. We can be sure, however, that it's coming. The experience of the past 150 years has demonstrated that the regularity of the capitalist business cycle is real and upturns are followed by recessions.

This is as certain as the formation of hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean in August and September every year. And if the hurricane season is a bit slow in getting started some year, no weather scientist would venture to say that these huge storms are a matter of the past.

Economic forecasters, however, don't have much to do with science, and plenty of them say that after nearly seven years of an unprecedentedly long upturn the rules have changed. Maybe recessions aren't on the agenda any more, they argue.

The problem with this judgment is that it doesn't take into account the mild recession in the business cycle that occurred in 1986. Consumer prices dropped steadily throughout the first months of the year for the only time since the 1981-82 recession and producer prices dropped 3.5 percent in the first four months of 1986 and didn't return to their previous level until mid-1987. Unemployment rose more than 1 percent for the first time since 1982, steel and aluminum production had the biggest and only substantial dips since 1981-82. And the list continues.

Although it didn't quite measure up to the official government definition of a recession, which is a total decline in the goods and services produced for each of six successive months, it destroyed enough capital to give a boost to the investment we have seen since then. This was buoyed by the great stock market boom and speculative operations such as leveraged buyouts. Far from being an abnormal situation, we should be expecting the current upswing to come to an end at roughly its normally expected time — that is sometime soon.

While we don't know the exact timing or how rough it will be, we can be sure of one thing. Working people are less prepared for dealing with the coming economic storm than for any recession in the past 50 years.

One fact illustrates this. Since 1982 wage increases have averaged only 2.5 percent annually according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Except for the brief interlude already indicated, the capitalist economy has been in an upturn. Yet, this period produced the smallest increase in hourly wages of any upturn since World War II. This means take-home pay for a good many workers has not been able to keep up with inflation, and they are worse off today than in 1982.

Moreover, none of the things that working people have come to expect as being a protection against economic and social catastrophe, including unemployment insurance, pensions, and so on can withstand a real social crisis. Not only have these benefits been eroded by cutbacks and mounting restrictions, many pension and health plans and savings accounts are jeopardized. Union officials and insurance companies have invested in "junk bonds" as part of the huge leveraged buyouts and many of these funds now ride or fall on what happens to this massive debt structure that has been built up.

The hardships for working people in the next recession then will be very severe.



## Editorial

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# Making big profits off the misery of the elderly

BY PAUL MONTAUK

OAKLAND, Calif. — Long ago I saw a powerful film that I never forgot — *Nanook of the North*, a study of the harsh life of the Eskimo, living on the edge of survival in a land of eternal ice, snow, and cold.

One day Nanook's mother's decayed teeth prevented her from chewing seal leather to make clothing, and she was no longer able to participate as a productive member of the

## AS I SEE IT

small group. With the others' consent she went out into the snow, sat down, and soon froze to death.

I was horrified by this and gave thanks that I live in a society that would not allow such a thing to happen.

Or would it?

The press recently reported an alarming increase in the suicide rate in the United States among those over 65. The national rate is 12.8 per 100,000, but for those over 65 it has risen to 21.6 and is climbing.

Why so? "The trend perplexes health-care experts," I read. References are made to the medical technology available today to prolong life. How explain this frightening

figure? One "expert" from the American Association of Retired Persons offers the observation that "more older people are committing suicide not out of depression but because they just don't want to go on living."

More than 3 million seniors live in over-the-hill joints referred to as "geriatric centers," "convalescent homes," "sanitariums," "retirement homes," "nursing homes," etc.

These places have much in common. Usually when you open the front door you are hit by the stench of urine and dirty linen. Occupants able to get out of bed sit and stare into space, their eyes reflecting a mind-dulling existence, everlasting boredom, and growing apathy.

There have been many reports of staff using excessive amounts of drugs as a way of keeping many quiet and controlled. The State Department of Human Resources in California estimates that more than 200,000 employees in this state work in such places — and most at minimum wage.

I went to visit a friend in one, and the attendant came into the room loudly announcing, "Snack time." All awakened and pushed their chairs around a table where their "snack" was served. It consisted of a small cup of Kool-Aid for each. I asked my friend what he had for dinner. "Alpo on toast," he replied.

Who owns and runs these islands of retirement and joy?

The corporations are listed in the *Medical and Healthcare Marketplace Guide*. It's a big book because health is a big business. The "geriatrics or nursing homes" income in 1980 was \$20 billion, and climbed to \$130 billion in 1988. *Moneyworld* magazine advises that second to investing in money, the health and retirement business brings the best returns — you get more than 20 percent a year in profits.

The company listed as the sixth-largest is National Medical Enterprises, Inc. NME has 260 nursing homes and its income last year was \$3.5 billion dollars. It owns laundries, food catering outfits, and hospital equipment supplies and services. They are the ones who provided the Kool-Aid snack.

This slow death with poor care and insufficient nutrition is what millions face today. Some, unable to qualify for such abodes, are sent to special sections set up in county hospitals with minimal staff and attention for those who "are not depressed" but just give up and soon die.

Insight into this growing tragedy contributes to understanding the escalating suicide rate of seniors. *Nanook's* decisions were motivated by human needs, not profits. His mother had no choice; we do. Capitalism needs to be put out on ice and replaced with a system placing human needs first.

## LETTERS

### Voyager

Militant readers may have followed Voyagers 1 and 2 on their recently completed 12-year grand tour. The stunning pictures of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and their moons are only a small part of the knowledge that has been gained of the outer solar system.

A recent report states that Voyager cost each person in this country 20 cents per year. I can think of few better ways to spend \$2.40. By comparison, the bailout of the savings and loans banks will cost every man, woman, and child in the United States \$650 apiece.

Carol Sholin  
Portland, Oregon

### UMWA strike

Members of the United Mine Workers union who manufacture and repair longwall mining equipment at Meco International in Warrendale, Pennsylvania, struck the company in August after it refused to offer them a decent contract.

The 97 members of Local 2350 have been active in supporting striking Pittston miners. In July, they walked out for eight days in solidarity with that fight.

"This rebuilt the local," said 2350 President Dick Glass. "Morale is high, and the strike is 100 percent."

Meco is demanding a clause in the contract prohibiting the local from honoring other workers' pickets. "No way," said Glass.

A 3 percent wage increase over three years and a cut in health-care coverage that would cost workers \$80 to \$120 a month is Meco's contract offer.

The British-owned conglomerate operates plants in Britain, the United States, and South Africa. Glass said the union will publicize Meco's complicity with the apartheid regime in South Africa and appeal for solidarity from South African and British workers.

Messages of support and donations can be sent to UMWA Local 2350, UMWA Region 1 Office, 321 Washington Trust Building, Washington, Pa. 15301.

(As of September 21, a tentative settlement had been reached that included a \$1.10 raise over three years and left workers' medical benefits untouched.)

Clare Fraenzl  
Warrendale, Pennsylvania

### Rotten prison system

I am a prisoner in this cesspool they call the Arkansas Department of Corrections.

I am asking for information and help in gaining our human rights in this rotten prison system, for my fellow prisoners as well as myself.

Allow me to explain the horrifying plight of prisoners of Arkansas.

Let me start with what is called the hoe squads and/or garden squads. We are forced to endure verbal abuse from men called hoe squad riders. These men dress and act as cowboys, wearing cowboy hats and boots, with riding spurs.

We are forced to use five-pound hoes to do such things as scrape the grass up. When it grows back, we do it again. All the while the hoe squad rider is screaming.

There is nothing productive about this type of forced labor, either for the earth, or us. In fact, it does harm to both.

Prisoners who are physically unable to do the labor (myself, for example) are still forced to work on the hoe squads. The staff of the medical infirmary believe that prisoners are less than animals. They medically classify us fit to work in the field as slaves, thus placing our poor health in danger of becoming worse.

Some of the prisoners who fight for prisoners' rights have written to the Congress, American Civil Liberties Union, the governor of Arkansas, etc. Nobody seems to give a damn about Arkansas prisoners.

Please start a campaign for the prisoners of Arkansas. Any and all help is greatly needed and appreciated.

A prisoner  
Tucker, Arkansas

### Death row

I'm presently confined on Indiana's death row. On May 25, 1982, I was sentenced to suffer the death penalty by electrocution in the chair for a charge I am completely innocent of. On Aug. 12, 1981, I was charged with killing a police officer after a bank robbery.

My plight is very grave. I would like to receive your kind support in my quest for freedom and justice. Anything that you can donate will be appreciated to the utmost.

At this stage, my case is in the appeal process. However, having an adequate, reliable supply of funds for my defense on retrial is vital to all of us if democracy and justice is to survive. There was no fair and equal judgement in my political death penalty trial.

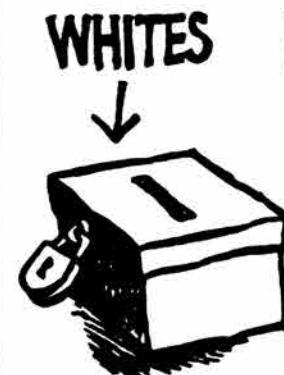
Donations may be sent to Equal Justice Committee, P.O. Box 4079, Gary, Ind. 46401.  
Zolo Agona Azania  
Michigan City, Indiana

### Society Behind Bars'

Militant readers might be interested in a new course scheduled at the University of California, Berkeley, officially sponsored by Chicano Studies Prof. Larry Trujillo but taught by Johnny L. Spain. It is entitled "Society Behind Bars."

Spain, a former Black Panther Party leader, spent 21 years behind bars. Although he was then a minor,

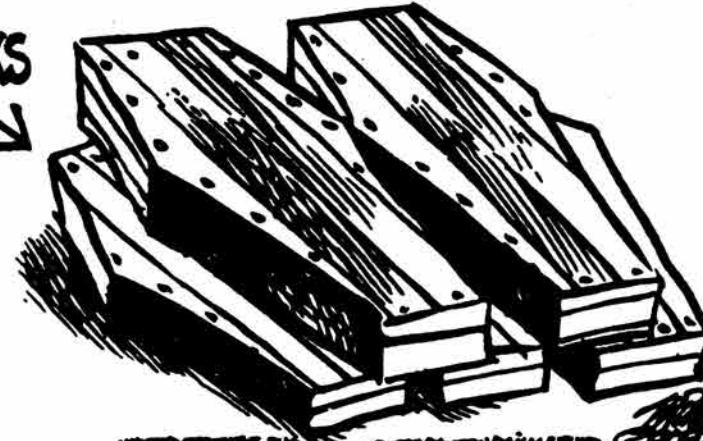
## SOUTH AFRICAN BALLOT BOXES



WHITES



BLACKS



United Press International

he was tried as an adult and sentenced to life imprisonment.

"The understanding of the criminal justice system is very vague," he says. "We have a fear of crime and criminals, yet we are ignorant about the system." Referring to the "violence" the Panthers were accused of, he stated, "The FBI was responsible for most of the violence."

As reported in the *Daily Cal*, when reporters attempted to contact and discuss this with local FBI agents, "they were unavailable for comment." The *Daily Cal* also reported that Assistant Chancellor for Public Affairs John Cummins refused to comment on a convicted murderer teaching a university class.

The United States has the highest prison population in the world, and it is increasing at the rate of 7.5 percent per year. An overwhelming majority of these prisoners represent oppressed minorities. Spain's class will discuss this and related material. High enrollment is anticipated.

Paul Montauk  
Oakland, California

### Military judicial system

I am writing to inform the public about the bias that surrounds the procedures of the military judicial system. I hope that we as a group unite and help support those who are behind bars, found guilty of offenses they did not commit.

We are informed that the government must bear the burden of proof and prove beyond a reasonable doubt each and every element, yet because we are Black, poor, and cannot afford adequate legal services, our careers are in the hands of individuals who work for the same organization that wants to persecute us.

In the book *Eyes on the Prize*, by Juan Williams, William Houston, one of the founders of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, stated that

when he was a judge advocate in the armed forces he was instructed to persecute Black soldiers, even without sufficient evidence.

Also General Peterson, the first Black U.S. Marine general, who retired in June 1988, stated in an article in the *Washington Post* that the military judicial system is unjust and unfair to Blacks and minorities.

More than 85 percent of the military soldiers confined are Black. This does not necessarily mean we are guilty. Lindsey Scott, a former marine sergeant here at the Quantico Marine Corps base, was found not guilty of the rape of a white woman after serving at least four years behind bars.

There are three individuals in the military justice system facing 10 years or more. We are trying to reach someone who could at least hear our cry to be heard.

After I finished reading your September 15 article on Mark Curtis I felt that with your support the public would become aware of various forms of discrimination toward Blacks and minorities within the military.

A prisoner  
Quantico, Virginia

### Musicians locked out

The 1989-90 Oregon Symphony Orchestra season was due to kick off September 17. But one month earlier symphony management locked out the musicians in the middle of contract negotiations.

American Federation of Musicians Local 99's agreement had expired on June 13. The main issue is a proposed increase in Saturday work hours.

The musicians are already working a six-day workweek and are on call mornings, afternoons, and weekends. Many of the orchestra members hold other jobs, including teaching positions, to supplement

their symphony earnings.

In addition to picket lines, these musicians have organized a series of free outdoor concerts to explain their side of the story. Since the symphony's conductor is refusing to take sides in the dispute, the concerts are directed by various musicians.

During these events, the stand-in conductors explain the issues involved and pass out literature from the union. The audiences have been very responsive to both the music and the plight of the musicians.

Janet Post

Portland, Oregon

### Held captive

While I was confined in prison in August I was set up with a weapon. I was taken to the box. I was given a prison disciplinary proceeding, and I was given 45 days' box time. During all this time, I was never arrested by the state police nor was I ever read my rights and fingerprinted.

I was taken to county court. The case has been illegally prosecuted. My original sentence is over with. Now I am being held captive.

A prisoner  
Wallkill, New York

### Reporting the truth

Please keep up the good work of reporting the truth. Your paper is the best of a very few sources of true reporting of the situations of the working-class people of this country.

John Baggerly  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

# U.S. troops sent to Virgin Islands

## Police action targets hurricane disaster victims

BY DON ROJAS

Troops in full combat gear, armed to the teeth, scrambling out of huge transport planes, some driving around in jeeps and other army vehicles, others deployed to patrol the streets and guard buildings with machine guns at the ready and with orders to shoot if they perceive themselves to be in any danger.

No, this was not the U.S. invasion of Grenada six years ago but rather the virtual invasion and occupation within the last week of St. Croix, a U.S. colony in the Caribbean.

Following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Hugo on the islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, hundreds of hungry and desperate islanders ransacked supermarkets and grocery stores and later removed stoves, refrigerators, electronic appliances, shoes, jewelry, and other goods.

It was like a sudden volcanic eruption of pent-up anger, frustration, and despair that had been simmering for decades within the majority Black population, a desperation fueled by decades of racism, poverty, social oppression, economic inequality, and lack of political power.

"St. Croix has been a Watts or a Harlem in the waiting. . . . If it wasn't the hurricane that touched things off, it would have been something else," observed Larry Birns, director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a private, Washington-based organization that monitors developments in the Americas.

To the surprise of Virgin Islands Gov. Alexander Farrelly, who had not formally requested that they be sent, President George Bush ordered the September 21 dispatch of 1,100 troops from the mainland along with dozens of U.S. marshals and FBI agents. To support the land troops, the U.S. Navy moved two guided-missile frigates off the coast.

### First use of federal troops since '68

Calling on the citizens of the Virgin Islands to "cease and desist" all unlawful actions, Bush justified the sending of troops by claiming they were needed to protect private property and lives in "conditions of domestic violence and disorder."

Questions had been raised about the legality of Washington's action under the U.S. Constitution since there was no formal request from the governor, the properly designated authority on the islands.

"A governor's request is not essential. We would probably have sent the troops anyway," declared Marlin Fitzwater, White House press secretary, as he brushed aside any such speculation.

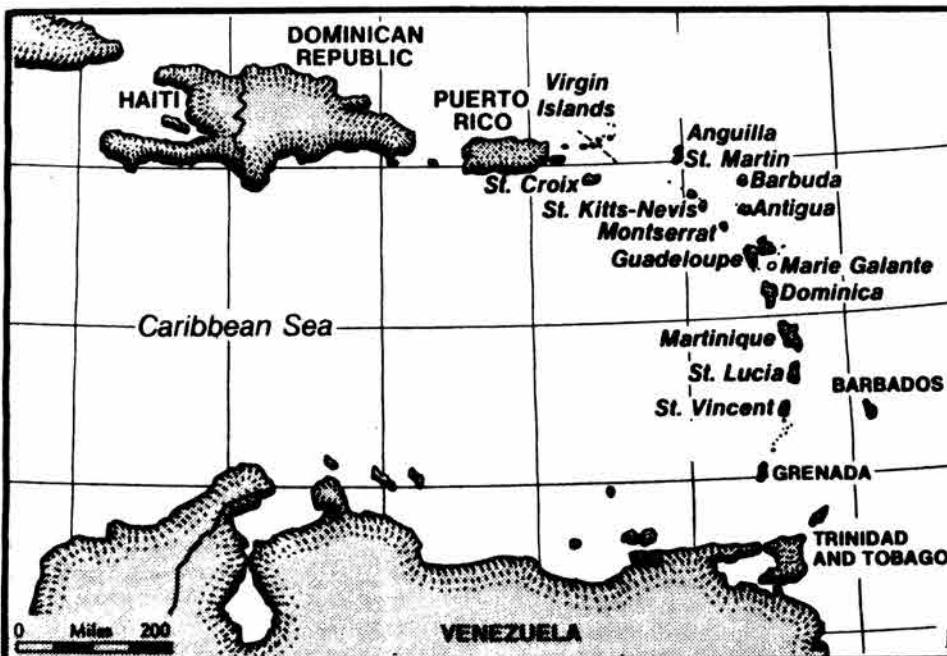
This was the first time U.S. troops have been deployed to put down a civil disturbance since the revolts in Black neighborhoods of Washington, D.C., following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968.

Four days after the hurricane struck, no relief supplies had arrived in the Virgin Islands. A week and a half later, food and medicines are in short supply. There is still no running water, no electricity, and no telephone service. Hunger is widespread and fresh water is being shipped from Puerto Rico in army barges because the desalination plant used to process sea water has not yet been repaired.

### Washington slow to respond

Puerto Rico, another U.S. colony in the Caribbean, was also seriously roughed up by Hugo. Essential services are slowly getting back on stream there. Shortages, which had triggered some lifting of food from supermarkets in San Juan shortly after the storm had ripped through the city, are not as severe as those in St. Croix and St. Thomas. Some 800,000 of the island's 3.3 million people are still without water service.

Gov. Rafael Hernández Colón, who criticized what he and many others characterized as the "slow response" of the federal government to send emergency aid, said the island



sustained \$1 billion in damage, that seven people were killed, and up to 53,000 families made homeless. To date, the federal government, working with Puerto Rican officials, have distributed some \$2 million in cash assistance to homeless families.

Rubén Berrios Martínez, president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, blasted the Puerto Rican government for its inability to restore basic services to the country seven days after the storm. He blamed this incapacity on "accumulating government inefficiency."

Early reports from tourists who fled St. Croix, as well as from amateur radio operators and from the big-business news services, painted a picture of a total breakdown in law and order in the immediate aftermath of the storm. These reports spoke of gangs armed with rifles and machetes roaming through the streets, of grandmothers and pregnant women looting, of youths rioting.

Some who claimed to be eyewitnesses said that even local police officers and National Guardsmen were among the "looters."

### Reports out of proportion

Governor Farrelly discounted these reports as "distorted, and in some cases exaggerated and, in a few cases, clearly malicious."

"There is some looting, no doubt about that, but there is no near state of anarchy. And I should know. I'm in the streets every day and I'm the governor of this territory," he added. Farrelly did not declare martial law, but he did impose a curfew on the islands.

Some journalists who later flew into St. Croix reported that civilians carrying guns and other weapons were mostly hotel and store owners, white and Black, or security guards employed by local business people. These elements, more than others, applauded the sending of troops.

Many Black islanders, however, resent the presence of the troops, arguing that it reinforces the view held by some whites that they are not accountable to the local Black government and that their government is the federal government.

A September 25 report in the *New York Times* quoted Virgin Islanders as saying that Blacks were not the only ones responsible for the "looting." They reported seeing white store owners tell people to come in and take what they wanted so the stores could claim a 100 percent loss on their insurance.

The destruction left by the hurricane was extensive throughout the Caribbean. Particularly hard hit were the islands of Guadeloupe, Montserrat, and St. Kitts. In its pass

through the region, the storm left tens of thousands homeless, the vast majority of whom are poor people forced by the economic crisis ravaging the Caribbean to live in shacks and otherwise inadequate housing.

### Billions in damage to the Caribbean

Hugo killed at least 26 persons in the Caribbean and caused billions of dollars in damage.

Virgin Islands Lt. Gov. Derek Hodge said he believed the damage on St. Croix alone would be \$4 billion and that 90 percent of the island's 50,000 residents are homeless. There were four deaths and between 700 and 800 injured in the hurricane, 100 seriously, he added.

The local economies have been devastated, with heavy damage to the hotels on which the tourist trade depends as well as to the banana and sugar crops. Roads and ports were battered, along with two large petroleum refineries.

Officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency predicted it would be a long time before the Virgin Islands recover.

### Virgin Islands are colonies

The U.S. Virgin Islands are a colony with a total population of more than 110,000, of which 85 percent are Black and Latino. Although residents of the islands are U.S. citizens they do not possess the basic political rights of citizens on the mainland. Like the people of Puerto Rico, they are not permitted to vote for representatives to Congress or for president.

They suffer from racial segregation and gross economic and social inequalities. Most of the best land on the islands is owned and occupied by the white minority with some of their residential areas, resorts, and country clubs out of bounds to the Black and Latino majority. Most of the businesses are owned by white capitalists many of whom hire white workers from the mainland instead of local Black workers.

In 1986 median household income for whites (\$17,281) was nearly twice that of Black and Latino households (\$9,908). This figure would put many islanders below the federally-defined poverty line. Estimates of current unemployment in St. Croix are as high as 30 percent.

## Quayle visit spurs protests in Philippines

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — Hundreds of students rallied at Manila International Airport on September 27 to protest the arrival of U.S. Vice-president Danforth Quayle for a three-day state visit.

Quayle's visit is widely regarded here as an effort to intervene in a broadening debate over the future of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines, on the side of those favoring their retention.

The treaty sanctioning the bases' presence expires in September 1992. Quayle will hand deliver a letter from U.S. President George Bush to Philippines President Corazon Aquino demanding that negotiations over a new treaty begin.

Under the new Philippines constitution, adopted after the overthrow of the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship in 1986, the Senate has sole power to ratify a new treaty. A majority of this body, however, have indicated their opposition to retaining the bases. To counter this opposition and get negotiations under way Aquino is supporting a call to negotiate a new treaty with Washington, which would then be the subject of a national referendum before being submitted to the Senate for ratification.

The U.S. embassy and other advocates of

the bases have been running a public scare campaign that the dismantling of the U.S. bases, the largest employer in the Philippines after the government, would precipitate a nationwide economic slump and a devastating growth in unemployment.

To underscore the main purpose of his visit Quayle will visit Clark air base, north of Manila. Clark and the nearby Subic naval base are the largest U.S. military facilities outside the United States, with some 40,000 servicemen.

The airport protests were led by the League of Filipino Students. The LFS has pledged to picket every function held for Quayle in the Philippines. Earlier protests preceding Quayle's visit were dispersed by police, and a number of students and other activists were arrested.

Police and army units were out in force as Quayle heaped insult upon injury by laying a wreath at the memorial for Jose Rizal. Rizal was a hero of the Philippine's anticolonial struggle executed by the Spanish rulers in 1896. Two years later, with defeat of the Spanish forces imminent, U.S. troops intervened. As many as a million Filipinos may have died in the ensuing decade-long war of conquest by Washington.

Police action was heavy handed against

those wishing to protest Quayle's "courtesy call" on the Philippines Senate later in the morning. Passersby were subjected to search by groups of police. Several students found to be carrying anti-Quayle banners were manhandled and bundled into waiting police vans.

A motorcade organized by the May 1 Movement (KMU), the labor federation, was blocked from driving past the Senate building by lines of police despite pleas from KMU national officer Nick Elman to be allowed to exercise the democratic right to protest. The KMU jeepneys (minibuses) were adorned with signs reading, "Yankee go home" and "U.S. bases out." Large numbers of heavily armed special police arrived in jeeps, and the workers were clubbed back into their vehicles, which were driven off under police guard.

Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, chief of the military and police forces in Metro-Manila, justified his ban on protest actions against Quayle as an effort to prevent "terrorist attempts" against Washington's representatives. Biazon accused the LFS of organizing "violent" anti-U.S. demonstrations. He has ordered the arrest of LFS National Chairman Nat Santiago on charges of "inciting to sedition."